

**Aotearoa New Zealand united in prayer for the conversion of hearts
for peace in our world and an end to the war in Ukraine**

Feast of the Annunciation, Friday 25 March 2022

Resources prepared / collated and shared by
O te Hāhi Katorika ki Aotearoa.
National Liturgy Office of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand

Prayer of Pope Francis for an end to the war - March 2022

(can be prayed by one leader with all praying bold text)

Forgive us for war, O Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on us sinners!

Lord Jesus, born in the shadows of bombs falling on Kyiv,
have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus,
who died in a mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv,
have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, a 20-year-old sent to the frontlines,
have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, who still behold armed hands in the shadow of your Cross,
have mercy on us!

Forgive us, O Lord.
Forgive us,
if we are not satisfied with the nails
with which we crucified
Your hands, as we continue to slake our thirst
with the blood of those mauled by weapons.

Forgive us, if these hands
which You created to tend
have been transformed into instruments of death.

Forgive us, O Lord,
if we continue to kill our brother and sister;
Forgive us, if we continue like Cain
to pick up the stones of our fields to kill Abel.
Forgive us, if we continue
to justify our cruelty with our labours,
if we legitimise the brutality of our actions with our pain.

Forgive us for war, O Lord. **Forgive us for war, O Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God, we implore You!

Hold fast the hand of Cain!

Illumine our consciences;
May our will not be done;
Abandon us not to our own actions!
Stop us, O Lord, stop us!

O Lord, put a halt to the violence!
Stop us, O Lord!

Amen.

Prayer for Ukraine

(you may like to publish the prayer in parish & school newsletters)

"Prayer for Ukraine" is a hymn composed in 1885, during a time when Ukrainian language was suppressed by the government of Imperial Russia. The text is by poet Oleksandr Konytsky and the music by composer Mykola Lysenko. It is used as a hymn by the various churches in Ukraine, including the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and became a spiritual anthem for Ukraine. It makes a haunting aid to prayer in the current situation.

This is a translation of the lyrics.
The hymn can be heard at this link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxcNuaH4qrY&t=1s>

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,
Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Bless her with freedom and light
of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten
us, your children small,
In love pure and everlasting.
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,
protect our beloved Ukraine.
Grant our people and country
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,
Guide us into a kind world,
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune
For ever and evermore.

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

for an end to the war in Ukraine

First Luminous Mystery of the Rosary:

Ko te Mihiteria Hikohiko tuatahi:

I iriaria a Hēhu ki te Awa Horano e Hoane Pāpita

The Baptism of Jesus

In both Ukraine and Russia significantly more than 70 percent of the populations are baptised Christian. Too often war is waged between people who profess faith in Jesus Christ as God of peace. Let us pray this mystery of the Rosary that those who are baptised into our Christian faith may return to relationship with Jesus our Prince of Peace.

Second Luminous Mystery of the Rosary:

Ko te Mihiteria Hikohiko tuarua:

Ko te mārenatanga kei Kāna o Karirea

The Wedding Feast at Cana

Following his Baptism the public ministry of Jesus begins with his first miracle, the transformation of water into wine at Cana, with the co-operation of those who heeded the invitation of Mary to "do whatever he tells you." Let us pray this mystery that all those who serve in public office may heed the call to respond to Jesus' call to live as instruments of His peace.

Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary:

Ko te Mihiteria Hikohiko tuatoru:

I tīmata a Hēhu tana kauwhau haere ki te iwi

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Jesus, you invite us to live in your kingdom, a realm that is not of this world but which is needed by our world. But we are too attached to our own power, building our own kingdoms, and engaging in warfare in our communities, our families and between nations. Let us pray this mystery seeking a renewal of desire for conversion of heart that we may be effective instruments of the new reign of God.

Fourth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary:

Ko te Mihiteria Hikohiko tuawhā:

Te whakaahuakētanga o Hēhu ki te maunga

The Transfiguration

Jesus teaches us that the Kingdom of God is not of our world, and requires a transformation of human hearts – a move from grasping at worldly power and control to a Transfiguration acknowledgment

that "This is my beloved Son, Listen to Him." As we pray this mystery we place ourselves with Peter, James and John, allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by the light of Jesus who illuminates every pathway of peace.

**Fifth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary:
Ko te Mihiteria Hikohiko tuarima:
Te Hapa Whakamutunga – Te Kōmunio Tuatahi
The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper**

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry he chooses the table as a place of encounter, choosing to eat and drink with good conversation with many who spend their lives on the peripheries. Today tables continue to be places of dialogue, and we use the term "come to the table" as an invitation to dialogue in the hope of resolving disputes. For Catholic Christians the table of the Eucharist is a place of unity. Let us pray this mystery of the Rosary that all who live in tension and war will discover their desire for dialogue in the service of peace.

Prayers of Intercession

(choose one or two)

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.

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

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

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

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.

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

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

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

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.

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

Based on prayers shared by CAFOD United Kingdom
<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Ukraine-intercessions>