

**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 25, 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.

Prayers of Intercession

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 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 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 ki a mātou

We ask all these prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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