

NJPN Urgent Action 27th February 2022



The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

FATHER FORGIVE

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Dear Friends,

Due to the Networking Day yesterday, and catering for a visiting Priest in our parish, I realised quite late on that I would not have enough hours in the weekend to produce a full e-bulletin.

Instead, there are actions here to do with arms to Yemen, and the situation in Ukraine, which is unfolding even as I write this. The likes of which looks as if it will have ramifications on the whole of Europe, if not the world.

I was privileged to be part of two prayer sessions for Ukraine on Thursday and Friday. The first organised by Christian CND, and the second by Fellowship of Reconciliation, Methodist Peace Fellowship and Church and Peace. Ann Farr read the beautiful Coventry Litany of Reconciliation on Thursday, and I thought it apt that I include it here today.

More prayers sessions will follow on Fridays at 7.30pm. See the [Fellowship of Reconciliation](#) website to register for these.

Action of the Week

Lobby your MP for Yemen on the 10th March

Next month sees the seventh anniversary of the war in Yemen, which began on 26th March 2015.

It is a war that has been fuelled by British arms exports, with sales worth more than £20 billion made to Saudi Arabia since the conflict began. It is also a war that has claimed over 377,000 lives. Last month, the Saudi coalition bombed a prison killing over 80 civilians, without a word of condemnation from the UK government.

It's high time for the UK government to stop enabling this war, end arms sales, and make serious efforts to bring the war to an end and promote accountability for atrocities committed by all sides.

On 10th March, CAAT is asking friends and supporters to lobby their MPs for Yemen. If you would like to take part in this Lobby Day, please contact your MP to [book a meeting](#).

. Between now and then we will send you a briefing pack with the latest information. There will also be an optional online training session to help you make the most of this meeting.

Thank you.

Ukraine

So many articles out there, and grateful thanks to Anne O'Connor who has provided most of them. I have included a few, but obviously most of us are hearing the news as it happens, and I think it is important to remember to take a moment and remove ourselves from the distress of it all, whilst still holding the people of Ukraine, and indeed Russia, in our thoughts and prayers.

As I write this I have received a phone call telling me that, according to the radio news, President Putin has put his nuclear forces on special alert. Looking at the [BBC News website](#), who are providing up to the minute information as it happens, the hope is that Putin is signalling a warning to NATO, rather than an intent to actually use them...but who knows. The world is negotiating with someone who seems to want to stop at nothing to get what he wants, or prove a point.

If you were wondering what is so special about Ukraine, the following has been doing the rounds on social media: -

**For those who are asking :
"Why does Ukraine matter?" "**

How the independent, sovereign and democratic nation of Ukraine ranks:

- 🏆 1st European reserve of uranium minerals;
- 🏆 2nd European titanium mineral reserve - 10th world reserve;
-)2nd world reserve of manganese minerals (2.3 billion tonnes, or 12% of

world reserves);

🏆 2nd world iron reserve (30 billion tonnes);

de2nd European Mercury Reserve;

(223rd European shale gas reserve (22 billion cubic meters) - 13th world reserve

4th place in the world in total value of natural resources

7th world coal reserve (33.9 billion tons)

Ukraine is an agricultural country - it can meet the food needs of 600 million people:

🏆 The largest area of arable land in Europe;

🏆 3rd largest area of black soil (chornozem) in the world (25% of world volume);

🏆 1st exporter in the world of sunflower and sunflower oil;

'2nd world barley producer - 4th world exporter;

de3rd corn producer in the world - 4th exporter in the world;

- 4th potato producer in the world;

- 5th rye producer in the world;

- 5th place in the world in beekeeping production - honey, wax, royal jelly, pollen, propolis, bee venom (75,000 tons);

- 8th wheat exporter in the world;

- 9th producer of chicken eggs in the world;

- 16th cheese exporter in the world

Ukraine is an industrialized country:

🏆 1st European producer of ammonia;

Europe 2nd largest pipeline network in Europe and 4th in the world (142.5 billion cubic meters of gas flow capacity in the EU);

🏆 3rd largest nuclear park in Europe - 8th world;

ire 3rd longest railway network in Europe - 11th in the world (21,700 km);

🏆 3rd worldwide producer of locators and tracking equipment (after the USA and France);

export 3rd world iron exporter;

4th world exporter of turbines for nuclear power plants;

4th manufacturer of rocket launchers in the world;

4th exporter of clay in the world;

4th titanium exporter in the world;

8th exporter of minerals and metal concentrates in the world;

9th exporter in the world in the arms industry;

10th steel producer in the world (32.4 million tonnes).

Regardless of the above, though, the important thing in all of this is the people. They don't want to fight or have their homeland destroyed. They don't want to lose loved ones for no reason. Their struggle has become our struggle, and we support them in love and prayer.

What Putin Wants

Peter Ricketts (former Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office) writes in [Prospects Magazine](#) about Putin wanting to re-open the post-Cold War settlement.

Pope visits Russian Embassy

On Friday, Pope Francis went to see the Russian Ambassador to the Holy See to express his concern about the war in Ukraine. Vatican News stated that he had previously appealed : - *"to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war."* And he called on believers and non-believers alike to unite in a joint supplication for peace next 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, by praying and fasting. *"Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting,"* the Pontiff said. *"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."*

You can read the full article through [Vatican News](#).

UNHCR, the Refugee Agency

“

We are in Ukraine, we have not left, and we are **ready to step up and provide help**. We have stockpiles, cash and other means to help the population. Provided we have access and security, we're ready to move.

”

News comment on Ukraine by Filippo Grandi,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



The [UN High Commissioner for Refugees Facebook](#) page has up to date news on what they are doing in Ukraine at present, and the humanitarian aid they are providing.

Statements from the Religious Communities

Pope Francis' Statement

"I have great pain in my heart over the worsening situation in Ukraine,"

"Like me, many people all over the world are anguished and worried. Once again, everyone's peace is threatened by one side's interests."

"I would like all those who have the political responsibility to make a serious examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war... He wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all parties involved will refrain from any action that will cause even more suffering for people, destabilizing coexistence among nations and undermining international law."

"And now, I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical evil of violence is answered with

the weapons of God, with prayer and fasting,"

"I invite everyone to make next March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace. I

encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby and the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell have posted a pastoral letter concerning the situation in Ukraine, calling for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces, as well as giving some specific dates for prayer. You can read the full letter [here](#).

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



They are helping to make sure that child health and protection services are sustained and families have clean water and nutritious food.

[Please donate to help protect children in Ukraine.](#)

Aid to the Church in Need -

ACN states on their website: - *With project partners reporting a deepening catastrophe, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has rushed through plans to send €1 million (more than £830,000) to help the Church in Ukraine as it ministers to a country invaded by Russian troops.*

Bishop Pavlo Honcharuk of Kharkiv, one of the dioceses in eastern Ukraine that ACN is supporting with emergency help, said: "The situation is getting worse every day. We live now from hour to hour.

"Prices are rising, especially for essential goods. The situation in the diocese is very difficult.

"The number of faithful has decreased and those remaining, unfortunately, cannot maintain the parishes or support the priests. They come themselves and ask for help from the priests and sisters."

The emergency aid will meet the essential needs – including heating, lighting, water and food – of the diocese's 57 priests as well as the 54 members of religious communities, enabling them to continue their vital ministry to those struggling to make ends meet.

For more of the story, and the opportunity to donate, go to the [ACN website.](#)

The Last Word

This beautiful piece was played at the end of the Prayer Meeting on Thursday: -

[Within our Darkest Night from the Taize Community](#)

See below for: -

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Catholic Communications Network

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About these E-BULLETINS

The items above are emails received from around the Network which may be of interest to those involved in working for justice and peace.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NJPN.

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Urgent Actions:

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If you appreciate these bulletins, help to keep them coming by donating to NJPN:

Send cheques payable to NJPN to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

*Make a regular donation by **standing order**: Download standing order/membership forms from <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>*

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