



Sunday, 6 March 2022

Dear brothers,

As I write to you today (Sunday, March 6) the terror being visited upon the people of Ukraine is intensifying. Civilian casualties are increasing and there is no end in sight to this destructive war.

Conscious of the teaching of Saint Paul *“to pray without ceasing”* (1Thess 5:17) and of the words of Jesus himself instructing us to *“ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be open to you”* (Matt 7:7) I am writing now to ask you to continue to encourage your people to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for all those in that country, and beyond, who in so many different ways are enduring great suffering at this time.

To that end I have composed a prayer which I am offering you in the sincere hope that at all Masses on this coming weekend you might pray this prayer with your people, perhaps at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful or before the Final Blessing.

You might also consider making the prayer available by projecting it on the screens in your church if you have such a facility, by reproducing it in the parish newsletter, or by making copies available for people to take home. It will also be available on the Archdiocesan website and you might consider directing people there if they want a personal copy. It is written as a prayer which can be prayed by individuals, by families and by parish and other communities.

Fr Ihor Holovko and the Ukrainian Catholic community here in Perth are very grateful for our support and our prayers. Thank you to all of you who have reached out to Fr Ihor and his community at this time. Let us continue to support them in every way we can.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Timothy Costelloe SDB

+Archbishop Tim Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

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