



# THE UNITED PARISHES OF

MALAHIDE, PORTMARNOCK & ST DOULAGH'S

*A community of people who worship together, pray together, grow together, learn together and care together*

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Thursday 2nd March, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

All of us have been shocked to the core by events in Ukraine.

In recent days, our television screens have been flooded with images none of us care to see, and quite frankly are disturbing to look at.

All of us feel anguish and concern, as indeed we should, since the peace of everyone is threatened by narrow, prejudiced, bigoted interests. But more than be worried, what can we do?

Various humanitarian responses to the crisis are beginning to emerge, and no doubt there will be opportunities for everyone to get involved. But, as the people of God, we have a particular responsibility to react in a specific way.

First and foremost, we are called to pray.

The Right Reverend Bonnie Perry is the Anglican bishop of the Diocese of Michigan and her plea to Anglicans and Episcopalians, and Christians all around the world, struck a chord with me.

*"Pray my friends. Pray in a way you have never before. Read the news, do not look away. Talk about the suffering we are seeing. Talk about it endlessly, bear witness to it. Name the suffering caused by unbridled aggression and unfettered greed for control. Name the evil that is taking place. Talk about the people whose homes and lives are crumbling around them. Imagine it is you, your life, your children. Let us do the one thing we can do in the midst of this horror. Let us pray."*

I include the following prayer for consideration for use:

## **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.

Bishops' Appeal has already sent €10,000 from its emergency funds to assist with the humanitarian response to the crisis and is appealing for help. Please support this special appeal by making an online donation at [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give) or by bringing your donation to church next Sunday 13th March. Thank-you.

Yours sincerely,

Rev'd David.

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