



Prophet Elias News

News in a time of pandemic for the Orthodox Church of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon

UKRAINE SPECIAL ISSUE

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Statement by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew about the War in Ukraine Sunday, February 27th, 2022

Even in the most unfavourable circumstances, such as today, where the world community is following with horror Russia's, beyond every sense of law and morality, military attack and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, an independent and sovereign state, or perhaps even more so now as the fiercest conflict since the time of World War II unfolds in Europe, in our neighbourhood, we direct our prayers to the Lord Jesus, the Ruler of peace, asking Him with a fervent soul that He "will give strength to His people" and "bless His people with peace" (cf. Psalm 27:11). The Holy Great Church of Christ unceasingly chants the angelic hymn throughout the ages: "peace on earth and good will to men."

Indeed, during the last few days, a tragic humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding in Ukraine. A war, which, like any war, is an abominable and reprehensible situation. It is the domination of irrationality over reason, hatred over love, darkness over light, death over life.

Again, from this position, we address another plea to end the war now! To immediately stop any act of violence, anything that spreads pain and death. Let reason prevail, love for fellow human beings, reconciliation and solidarity, the light of the Risen Christ, the gift of life.

We express our full sympathy to our brother, the Primate of the Church of Ukraine, His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphanius of Kyiv, and our unwavering support to all the seriously suffering Ukrainian people, who have a deep faith in God and chose to live freely and to determine their own lives, as every nation deserves. Although, unfortunately, some have come, these days, to the point of questioning even their historical and national existence.

Our thoughts are constantly with the wounded and with the families of the innocent victims, irrespective of their ethnic identity, and we pray for the rest of their souls to the Lord of Life and Death. We are certain that the Lord will hear our prayers and will not abandon his beloved children in Ukraine.

Source – Orthodox Times

Statement by Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain

As Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch in the United Kingdom, my diverse flock includes devout Christians from both Ukraine and Russia.

The heartbreak we feel for them and their loved ones abroad during this tragic time cannot be put into words. The events of the past few days bring deep pain and sadness to all our hearts.

The Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain embraces a common expression of Orthodox Christian unity that transcends any ethnic, linguistic, and cultural divisions.

Thus, together with our collective call for an immediate ceasefire, we beseech all the Christians in the United Kingdom to come together in unity and increase their prayers and special supplications for the God-loving Ukrainian faithful, as well as for all people around the world who are experiencing the scourge of armed conflict.

May the black clouds of despair, violence, and hatred soon dissipate in order for the heavenly Light from above to shine brightly down on the pious faithful in Ukraine.

Source – Orthodox Times 27th February 2022

It is easy to feel in situations like these that there is nothing we can do to make anything better. But there are some things we can do practically. The Ukrainian Institute has a useful list of agencies who are coordinating material help from the UK – visit [Russia's war against Ukraine. What can you do to support Ukraine & Ukrainians?](#). Locally, there are plans to set up a collection point in Exeter for First Aid supplies etc. Details will be given in the Newsletter as soon as we have them. And we can demand that our politicians meet their obligations under international law to allow refugees to seek protection here without placing obstacles in their way.

And we can pray. Because Jesus said 'Whatever you shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.' (John 16: 23) Ed.

A Prayer for Peace

We thank You, Master and Lover of mankind, King of the ages and giver of all good things, for destroying the dividing wall of enmity and granting peace to those who seek your mercy. We appeal to You to awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbours, thinking especially of those at war or preparing for war. Grant peace to your servants. Implant in them the fear of You and confirm in them love one for another. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to disagreement. For You are our peace and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

We pray, Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims and all those in the struggle in Ukraine. We pray for your peace and your mercy in the midst of the great suffering that people are now inflicting on each other. Accept the prayers of your Church, so that by your goodness peace may return to all peoples.

O Lord our God, remember and have mercy on our brothers and sisters who are involved in every conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You; hear us and have mercy on us.

Let all believers turn aside from violence and do what makes for peace. By the strength of your mighty arm save your people and your Holy Church from all evil oppression; hear the supplications of all who call to You in sorrow and affliction, day and night. Merciful God, let their lives not be lost, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

But grant, O Lord, peace, love and speedy reconciliation to your people whom You have redeemed with your precious blood. Make your presence known to those who have turned away from You and do not seek You, so that none of them may be lost, but all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, so that everyone, in true love and harmony, O long-suffering Lord, may praise your all-holy Name. Amen.

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