

Donnybrook

1 March 2022

Welcome

A few streets away there was a candlelight vigil yesterday for peace in Ukraine. I think all of us are horrified by the unprovoked aggression towards the people of Ukraine. We are watching the degrading of a society and the dismantling of a democracy.

Topic

What can we do?

Steps

The Holy Father has issued a special appeal for prayer. He himself took the initiative and called on the Russian Embassy in Rome. He has also proposed world-wide prayer. The cyclical remark of Stalin comes to mind – and still we do not believe that evil and destruction are on the side of history. Prayer does change things – it lends support to the suffering and bears witness to the desire for goodness. In particular, Pope Francis has asked us all to make tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, as a particular day of prayer and fasting for peace. We should all take part and give thought to how we ourselves will mark the day.

The parish council had a regular meeting last night and two initial proposals emerged. One was to focus the regular Wednesday evening prayer as a prayer for peace – in our own small, local way we assert our solidarity with the victims of aggression and with the people of Ukraine. The second proposal is a very simple one: to host a bring and buy cake sale so as to generate funds for the people of Ukraine. Whatever we might gather would be sent forward. How to send funds is as yet unclear.

There is a Ukrainian Catholic parish in Dublin. The priest is based on Donnybrook, Fr. Vasyl Kornitsky. The proposal on the table is to work through him to make sure that whatever we forward goes directly to people in need.

Conclusion

In the meantime, all we can do is pray and pray consistently and deeply. The readings today speak today about trust in God and being ready for action.