

Donnybrook

Feast of the Annunciation

25 March 2022

Welcome

Today's feast marks the conception of Jesus. Today we interrupt Lent, but in reality our readings still focus the person and destiny of Jesus of Nazareth. Today, the readings speak of birth and death, incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection, the whole story of salvation.

Topic

We cannot forget that we mark the annunciation this year in a context which is deeply tragic.

Steps

Perhaps this much may help. We can and do pray for peace and an end to terrible violence and destruction in the Ukraine. When he was here, Vasyl Kornitsky reminded us that prayer is an act of solidarity, a kind of communion in crisis.

As part of our worldwide solidarity, today in Rome the Holy Father is holding a special service of penance in St Peter's basilica, during which he will dedicate Ukraine and Russia to Mary the mother of Jesus. The Vatican, as a state with diplomatic relationships, often uses gestures rather than words. It is, therefore, significant that both countries will be dedicated, a recognition that the leadership in one country has failed catastrophically. In essence, this is a gesture of prayer and we are all encouraged to "synchronise" our prayer with that of Pope Francis.

Conclusion

Today, at 4.00 Irish time, there will be a similar service of dedication in our church here in Donnybrook. The Archbishop will be here for the specially created service. All of us are invited to be present. The important thing is to pray, of course, but if you are free perhaps you would consider coming in person.