

25 February 2022

UKRAINE WAR

My dear friends in Christ,

As you will be aware from the news Russia has launched an unprovoked war on the sovereign nation of Ukraine. The patently false claims of the Russian President about Russia's own security are the supposed pretext for this disgrace.

As a former member of the Australian Defence Force, I feel for the soldiers, sailors and airpersons involved in this conflict for they are only doing their duty, and they themselves are not the perpetrators, only Vladimir Putin and all those in the leadership who gave the green light for this war crime are to blame for the inevitable death and destruction which will ensue.

I would ask the Diocese this Sunday to dedicate a point in their service, probably best as intentions for the mass, or a special section in the prayer time, or both, for us as a Diocese to unite with other Christian communities throughout Australia and the world as we pray and uphold the people of Ukraine, those who have lost their lives, their homes and their livelihoods as a result of this criminal activity.

As we approach Ash Wednesday I would also encourage you all in your parishes to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for a return to the independent sovereignty of that nation.

There are many prayer resources for this available on the web, and so I invite you to source the resources most appropriate for you.

With every blessing to you all,

 + *Keith Dalby* *The Murray*

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray

