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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you as the world is in turmoil following recent events in Eastern Europe. I am sure that you will agree that the horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil.

Now, more than ever, we need to place our trust in Jesus Christ, as we remember that God is not the author of confusion but of peace; and so I urge you to pray for a ceasefire, a withdrawal of Russian forces and for peace to prevail. Pray for the innocent – the women, men and children who are displaced, whose lives are disrupted, and who live in fear of the atrocities of war. Pray for those with power – that they may make a resolute and public decision to never use force, to actively work for peace and seek peaceful solutions to dispute and disagreement. Pray that there may be a recognition of common and shared humanity and God's promise of flourishing life for all people.

Please make this Sunday, 27 February, a day of prayer for Ukraine; there is a prayer attached for use before the Collect of the Day and consider using 'A Litany for the Armed Forces' in place of your regular intercessions (available here).

The Bishop in Europe has asked us to join them in prayer for the chaplaincy in Kyiv and the churches that serve Ukraine.

I also urge you to join in with Pope Francis's call for a global day of prayer and fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday.

At this time of great uncertainty, we place our hope and trust in God, whose love never fails. Lord, have mercy.

+ Stephen Eber:

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