

## Pope Francis calls for our generosity for victims of war in Ukraine

Two weeks ago, on the Sunday of Divine Mercy, at the heart of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called on all of us to recognise and respond to the current crisis in Ukraine, where millions are enduring an undeclared war, which has been dragging on for two years. This war has claimed almost 10,000 lives, tens of thousands are injured, hundreds of thousands traumatised. Despite an official ceasefire agreement signed in Minsk, the war continues. The number of casualties and refugees has increased dramatically; after two years of war there are 1.7 million internally displaced people and a million refugees in neighbouring countries, half a million do not have basic food and hundreds of thousands do not have safe drinking water. These numbers are not simple statistics, behind each figure is the tragedy of a person or an entire family.

Yet the spirit, hope and faith of the ordinary people remains strong. As the Apostle Paul wrote: "We give thanks to God always for you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Thes 1:2-3). Despite their suffering, Ukrainians believe that God has not forsaken them. Indeed, He has not. But in this world the Lord works with human hands. Pope Francis, who for two years has repeatedly spoken about the injustices in Ukraine calling for peace, dialogue, and respect for international law, summons us to concrete solidarity.

To this end the Holy Father has asked us to conduct a special collection for Ukraine this Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April in all Catholic churches in Europe – encouraging all Catholics and people of good will to donate generously. This gesture of charity, whilst alleviating material suffering, also manifests moral solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Three things are most needed: to pray for peace and justice in Ukraine, to stay informed regarding the true situation in this ancient European land, and to show your solidarity.

*See the suffering of others!  
Open your hearts!  
Become the hands of the Lord!*

St. Paul speaks to us: "Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us – see that you excel in this gracious work as well" (2 Cor 8:7).

## Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Under the pastoral care of the Pallottines, Society of the Catholic Apostolate.  
Registered Charity No. 252929

358 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 9AN  
020-8578-1363

### COMMUNITY

Fr. Eugene Lynch SCA, Fr. Tom Daly SCA,

Fr. Kevin Ward SCA, Fr. John Egan SCA.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Saturday 9.00 am – 4.00 pm  
Sunday 10.00 am – 1.30 pm

### MASSES

Monday – Friday 12.00 noon  
Saturday 12.00 noon, 7.00 pm (vigil Mass)  
Sunday 8.00 am, 9.00 am, 10.30 am  
12.00 noon and 7.00 pm  
Confessions (Saturday) 11.00 am – 12.00 and  
6.15 pm – 6.45 pm

### FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016

The readings for today's Mass are on  
page 271 of the Mass book.

The Creed – page 11      The Lord's Prayer - page 57

The response to the Psalm is:

*I will bless your name forever, O God my King*

The Acclamation is:

*We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess  
your Resurrection, until you come again.*

### SECOND COLLECTION

**HUMANITARIAN COLLECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE**

***First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts and cards are available in the Parish Office.***

***CHARISMATIC PRAYER GATHERING***

You are welcome to join us today, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April for our monthly prayer meeting, from 3.30 to 5.30 pm in the Parish Centre, and every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month and will be conducted by the Community of the Risen Lord. For further details, please see the poster in the Church Porch or call Sonia (07810-505-444) or Niru (07877-366-597).

***BAPTISM MEETING***

The Baptism meeting for May will take place next Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, at 10.00 am in the Church Meeting Room, which is around the church and up the ramp near the car park. Please bring along a copy of the child's birth certificate.

***SUNDAY SCHOOL***

There will be NO Sunday School next week, 1<sup>st</sup> May, due to the Bank Holiday.

***CONFIRMATION 2016***

The Confirmation Mass will take place at 2.00 pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. The celebrant will be our newly installed bishop, John Wilson. Please pray for the 75 candidates and their families.

***PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE***

We are delighted to announce that this year's parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje will be led by Fr. John Egan, and will take place from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October (half-term). The price for 7 nights half board will be £529.00 per person. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage, please contact 01423-531222.

***ROSARY and NOVENA to OUR LADY of PERPETUAL HELP***

This Novena takes place on Wednesdays at 7.00 pm in the Side Chapel. Everyone will be made welcome.

***ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT***

The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Friday from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm, in the Side Chapel. Rosary at 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Everybody welcome.

***VISITATION PARISH CENTRE***

Live soccer every Saturday and Sunday. Gaelic Games showing every weekend. Taekwondo every Wednesday at 7.00 pm. To book a lesson, please call Declan on 07885-819469. Families welcome.

***FRIENDSHIP GROUP***

The next Friendship Group meeting will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm in the meeting room around the church and up the ramp near the car park. All will be welcome for a cup of tea and a chat.

***NEW BABY GROUP***

If you are expecting, or have just had, a baby, you are very welcome to come along to our small, friendly group for a coffee and chat. We meet every TUESDAY from 1.00 to 3.00 pm in the Church Meeting Room, which is around the church and up the ramp near the car park. For more details call Terry on 020-8575-3060 or 07971-821511.

***Funeral Arrangements***

*Agnes Teresa O'Connor*

Mass 10.00 am, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Visitation Church, followed by burial in Gunnersbury Cemetery.

Please pray for Alice Long, who died on Saturday morning, funeral arrangements to follow.

**Parish Pastoral Council will take place this Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April. 11.30 am**