

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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Ukraine Crisis Appeal

As a Catholic School, we are incredibly passionate about doing as much as we can to support those in Ukraine.

Pope Francis has called for political leaders, and the world, to make "a great examination of conscience before God, who is the God of peace and not of war".

Alongside our prayers, there are practical ways in which we can help towards the humanitarian crisis from the invasion of Ukraine. Many families have already kindly donated various clothing and personal hygiene items to support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

With the crisis continuing to unfold, many children and families are being displaced and restricted of basic human needs. As a result, financial donations are more needed at this time.

As a Catholic school, we will be holding a CAFOD Fast day on Thursday, 17th March 2022. We will be inviting students to swap their usual meal to have soup and bread for a donation of £1. By fasting this way, we stand united with the people of Ukraine both in prayer and action. Alternatively, many students may prefer to donate £1 rather than having soup. All money raised will go directly to the CAFOD Ukraine Crisis Appeal. You can also donate via the SCOPay, under donations and selecting Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal.

As our young people are expressing worry, misunderstanding and concern over the crisis, The Key, the national information service for school leaders has created a bank of resources for us to share with our parents and carers. We hope this will help you to support and reassure your young people.

- How to talk to children: <https://key.sc/3vFsVzU>
- Parent information and support pack: <http://key.sc/3IKqZtw>
- How to talk to your teenager about the invasion of Ukraine (BBC Bitesize/Anna Freud Centre) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbrdjsg>
- How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds) <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>
- Worrying about Russia and Ukraine (Childline) <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>
- Worrying about war and conflict Sarah Dove (Phoenix Education Consultancy) <https://www.phoenixgroupqh.com/tools>

Finally, and most importantly, please do remember the people of Ukraine in your prayers. May God, our Merciful Father, give wisdom to those who are trying to sustain, protect and build peace through negotiation and diplomacy. As Christians and People of Good Will, we call for the gracious blessing of a loving God and Creator upon Ukraine and its people!

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.T.G.' with a stylized flourish.

Anthony
Chaplain