



**PRAYER FOR PEACE AND CONSECRATION OF
RUSSIA AND UKRAINE
TO THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

ON

MARCH 25, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

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INTRODUCTION

At the instance of the Apostolic Nuncio to Nigeria, His Excellency, The Most Rev. Antonio Guido Filipazzi, these texts have been prepared in response to the invitation of Pope Francis to bishops all over the world to, along with their priests, pray for peace and consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The Holy Father specifically requests that this prayer exercise be held in the evening around 5pm, the same time His Holiness will be holding same in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

These texts may be modified to suit particular circumstances. The prayer of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary could also be said within other forms of liturgical celebrations, such as the Holy Mass and Benediction. It may also be said within the context of praying the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament.

May our Blessed Mother, the Queen of peace, intercede for us. Amen.

Issued this Twenty-Third Day of March in the Year of our Lord, Twenty Twenty-Two.

**Rev. Fr. Zacharia Nyantiso Samjumi,
Secretary General,
Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria.**

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE HYMN

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Celebrant: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

GREETING

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

WELCOME AND BRIEF EXPLANATION ON THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING

All Sit

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

“The Lord will gather all nations in the eternal peace of the Kingdom of God.”

A reading from the Book of the Isaiah

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest as the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 (R. see 9b)

R. The Lord speaks of peace for his people

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.
Justice will march before him,
and guide his steps on the way. **R.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

“Walk in love, just as Christ.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brethren: do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:9

R. Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Happy the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

R. Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

“You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Hail, full of Grace, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I know not man?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.”

And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant:

God our loving Father guides all creation with fatherly care and has given all men and women one common origin. Let us ask him to bring all his children together peacefully into one family and to keep them united in fraternal love.

1. For the Church: that, through her ministry, all peoples, irrespective of creed, race or social status, may grow in harmony and peace and foster mutual understanding and respect among themselves. Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For world leaders: that they may work together to promote the reign of peace among all nations, so that the world may be emancipated from all forms of violence. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine: that the Lord may inspire the leaders of these warring countries to embrace sincere dialogue and to do all within their power to bring the war to an end. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For countries around the world experiencing armed violence: that the Lord may bring to an end their distressing situations and fill their land with his peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For this community gathered here: that, inspired by the perfect unity that exists among the three persons of the Holy Trinity, we may seek to live in peace and sincere love with one another. Let us pray to the Lord.
6. For the dead, especially those who had died in the war between Russia and Ukraine: that they may be led to the complete truth in the kingdom of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant:

God our loving Father, may our prayers ascend to you and bring down to us your peace and grant that all may love one another as brothers and sisters, so that all incidents of warfare and bloodshed may be eliminated. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our Mother, you love us and know us: no concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns. We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that

God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (*Jn 2:3*). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded. We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your

motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (*Jn 19:26*). In this way he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history. At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "Fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope", water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCLUDING RITES

PRAYER

God our Father, maker and lover of peace, to know you is to live, and to serve you is to reign. All our faith is in your saving help; protect us from men and women of violence, keep us safe from weapons of hate and grant that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the war between Russia and Ukraine may come to an end. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Assistant: Please, bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Celebrant: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

All: Amen

Celebrant: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Assistant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN