

PRAYERS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR UKRAINE

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WAR

Lord Jesus, I pray to you for these children, boys and girls who are living under the bombs, who see this terrible war, who have nothing to eat, who have to flee leaving home and all they possess. Lord Jesus, look at these children, these young people, protect them, they are the victims of the pride of us, the adults. Lord Jesus, bless these children and protect them. Together let us pray to Our Lady to protect them. Hail Mary...

God, stop the war or the atomic catastrophe will extinguish us!

FORGIVE US THE WAR¹

Forgive us the war, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, *have mercy on us sinners.*

Lord Jesus, born under the bombs of Kiev, *have mercy on us.*

Lord Jesus, who died in his mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, *have mercy on us.*

Lord Jesus, sent in his twenties to the front, *have mercy on us.*

Lord Jesus, who still see your arms hands in the shadow of your cross, *have mercy on us!*

Forgive us Lord, forgive us, if not content with the nails with which we pierced your hand, we continue to drink from the blood of the dead torn apart by weapons.

Forgive us, if these hands that you had created to guard, have turned into instruments of death.

Forgive us, Lord, if we continue to kill our brother, forgive us if we continue like Cain to remove the stones from our field to kill Abel. Forgive us, if we continue to justify cruelty with our effort, if with our pain we legitimize the brutality of our gestures.

Forgive us the war, Lord. Forgive us the war, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore you! Stop Cain's hand!

Enlighten our conscience, let not our will be done, do not abandon ourselves to our actions!

Stop us, Lord, stop us!

And when you have stopped Cain's hand, take care of him too. He is our brother.

O Lord, put a stop to violence! Stop us, Lord! Amen.

¹ Text by Archbishop of Naples, Monsignor "Mimmo" Battaglia. The General Audience, Paul VI Hall, Vatican City, 16.03.2022; Translation by Fr. Randy Soto, PNAC.