

**Address of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill dated March 16, 2022
regarding the events in Ukraine**

**Beloved brothers archpastors!
Dear fathers, brothers and sisters!**

Today we are going through a difficult historical period: all our thoughts, worries and prayers are connected with the ongoing events in Ukraine. But even in the most difficult times of challenges, our people sought help from the Most Holy Mother of God who has always been a zealous intercessor and defender of the Holy Russia.

During the days of the Great Lent, when the Church stands in repentance before the Lord, I appeal to all of you, my dears, with an appeal to read daily the “Akaphist to the Most Holy Mother of God, sung in every sorrow of the soul and in difficulties” with the addition to it of the previously approved prayer for the restoration of peace.

Let us turn our eyes and sighs to the zealous Intercessor of the Christian people, so that, through Her relentless maternal intercession, the humane-loving Lord inclines His mercy to our peoples and grants strong and unstoppable peace.

**+KIRILL,
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA**