
Ukraine: lights out in Lviv

"Please remain in the shelters" - urged Andriy Sadovyi, the mayor of Lviv, in a tweet which instantly appeared on the mobile phone screens of those queuing at the Korczova border crossing, between Poland and Ukraine. A missile attack hit Lviv, some 70 km away. It struck power plants, leaving parts of the city facing blackouts. Official Apps such as 'Krainainfo' and 'Molnia' provide real-time updates on Air Raid Alerts and attacks, showing a map of Ukraine highlighted in red, indicating that the Air Raid Alert now involves the entire country. The long lines of cars heading into Ukraine continue to grow. The border into Ukraine is closed. However, there is hope that it will be reopened as soon as the air raid alert is over. In the past few weeks many Ukrainians have been travelling to and from Ukraine and Poland to purchase vehicles. The Polish government, says Fr Jaroslav, vice rector of the Vorzomel seminary, sadly known for having been destroyed and looted by the Russians, has enacted a law allowing Ukrainians to purchase their vehicles in Poland VAT-free. But many flock to Poland to fill up on fuel and diesel in particular, which is starting to be in short supply. Over an hour has passed and the line of cars is starting to move, but the process is slow on the Polish side of the border, especially at passport control. Father Jaroslav, who is accompanying a delegation from Aid to the Church in Need, led by its director, Alessandro Monteduro, on a solidarity visit to Ukraine, opens the car boot and explains the purpose of the delegation's visit to the border police, in order to receive the go-ahead.

