

No Easter truce in Ukraine: relentlessly bombed, the people pray for victory and for an end to the war



greetings exalt a victorious outcome: “Today we celebrate Easter with unwavering faith in our victory. We have already gone a long way. But we might be still facing the greatest challenge. We will overcome it. Together we will move forward towards our dawn, when the sun will rise all over our country.” **“All of us today - Ukrainians in particular - feel that the history of Christ's death and resurrection is not just about Him: it concerns each and every one of us,”** His Beatitude **Sviatoslav Shevchuk**, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, said in his Easter homily at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv. From the very first moments of the first massive Russian attack of February 24, 2022, the cathedral - especially its basement - became a place of refuge and shelter for many people. “Our Lord extends his life-giving right hand, pierced on the cross, to each one of us today,” said His Beatitude Sviatoslav. “It caresses the wounds of our mournful and depleted Ukraine. Those same wounds we bear upon us today.” “It caresses the tears” and “even the death” we “see every day in our destroyed cities and villages”, saying: “I am your strength.” “Today Ukraine is crucified, we are being killed,” Shevchuk emphatically declared. **“But Ukraine is on the way towards victory, towards its resurrection.”**



. Exarch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Kharkiv - 40 kilometres from the Russian border and constantly targeted by Russian artillery. The bishop praised the defenders of Ukraine, calling them "our heroes." His thoughts also went to the "peaceful people and the innocent children", that are dying because of the war. "How much pain, how many people were maimed and wounded, how many are suffering in captivity, how many are missing!" the bishop said. "We all want this terrible war to end as soon as possible and resume a life of peace." **The Exarch of the Greek Catholic Church in Odessa, Mykhaylo Bubniy, met with families** that were forced to leave their homes, and gave the 140 children present an Easter basket. He assured them that the Church will continue supporting and helping them during this tragic time they are going through. "It would seem that military might and force are emerging triumphant on the battlefield," Bishop **Stepan Menyok** and his auxiliary **Maxim Ryabukha** wrote from Donetsk. "But the struggle for truth, independence and love of homeland are stronger than weapons, because God is with us." "Evil can never triumph over goodness. It is contrary to God's Almightyness and His Love."

M. Chiara Biagioni