

2nd March 2022

Dear parents/carers

You, like us, will undoubtedly be watching the events in Ukraine unfold with horror. Whilst as a community of Catholic schools we are praying together for a swift end to the conflict, we know that the impact on the Ukrainian people will be devastating and potentially long lasting.

During Lent, we always focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As Lent begins today, it seems most appropriate that we turn the full attention of our charities and social action to supporting the people of Ukraine in as practical a way as possible. Many Ukrainians have left their homes and fled to safety with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. Others have stayed and have sustained injuries and are in need of medical supplies. Whatever the circumstances Ukrainian citizens now find themselves in, they need our help.

From Monday, we will begin collecting the items below at each school in the Holy Spirit MAC. We are asking you to please do as you have done countless times before and support our appeal by donating as generously as you can. Children can bring their donations to school all next week and they will be sorted and prepared, ready to be transported. On Sunday 13th March, we will also be opening St. Thomas More Catholic Academy from 12pm until 3pm to allow the wider community to drop donations off which will then be sent to the Ukrainian people. On Sunday 13th March, you will also be able to make a cash donation if you would rather.

In addition to making your own donations, we would very much appreciate you spreading the word to friends, family, neighbours and colleagues and let them know they can just turn up at St. Thomas More between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday 13th March to donate items. You can also help by sharing our Facebook posts.

To date, the generosity across the MAC community has been overwhelming. In our lifetime, there may never have been a time when our Lenten almsgiving can have such a direct impact on our fellow brothers and sisters so please, let's once again show the strength of our community as we reach out to the people of Ukraine to let them know we are supporting them.

The items needed are:

- Baby food
- Nappies
- Baby clothes
- Bandages
- First aid kits
- Pain killers (please only drop on Sunday 13th March- do not give them to your child to bring into school)
- Sleeping bags
- Hats (new if possible)
- Gloves (new if possible)
- Socks (new if possible)
- Personal hygiene items (tooth brushes, toothpaste, shower gel, female sanitary items)
- Hand sanitiser
- Food with long expiry dates

With thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Smith

Senior Executive Principal