

# The BOSCO BUGLE





# The BOSCO BUGLE

EDITION #6



## A Salesian Perspective

You will have noticed a new look to the Bugle for this edition – and it's very unusual that I should write in a student newspaper at all; this week, however, I felt compelled to.

Saying a prayer before Year 13 Maths and Media Mock Exams this morning felt like a strange balancing act. Remaining focused on the business of school life and exams at a time when news in Europe is so significant and so frightening is certainly a challenge. It's an important safeguarding commitment for teachers to maintain political neutrality – but there are human costs to conflict which transcend political loyalties or even national identities.

Our first thoughts must be with the people of Ukraine. Many of the freedoms we take completely for granted have been taken away in the most horrifying way. I'd ask that you direct your prayers and thoughts to those who need it most.

### Social Media – a cautionary tale



I have to ask you, in stronger terms than ever, to be very mindful about the misinformation circulating on social media sites that you will use a great deal. Get your news from multiple, trusted, sources. British television and print journalism is held to far higher regulatory standards than social media sites like Tik Tok and Instagram and there are much firmer consequences for sources like the BBC or The Guardian or The Times for instance – which I'd encourage you to access. Aside from believing things which are not true, some social media sites can make the events seem trivial, like a game or film.



Please be mindful of this when you speak about current affairs in college; we have Ukrainian and Russian members of the school and college community for whom the events will be deeply upsetting and personal, and it would be truly Salesian to make sure that our language and our attitudes came from a place of empathy, loving kindness and understanding. If we sensationalise, trivialise or make light of the events in Ukraine, we become part of a wider problem. I have to say I've been impressed by the maturity of the conversations I've had with students this week – and I'm sure you'll continue to be mindful and respectful.

If you are really struggling to make sense of the events, or you're particularly upset by them, please discuss them with a trusted adult in school. We won't have all the answers, and many of the staff will be just as confused and upset by the events as the students, but we can certainly support you as best we can.



Mr M



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

## A prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to  
guide their choices.

We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.

## Orwell's Prophecy

As the situation in Ukraine intensifies and we, as a nation, become more globally politically aware, reflecting upon the works of some of the most poignant political authors of our time is more important than ever. Looking back to an essay by George Orwell, 'You and the Atom Bomb', written in direct response to the tensions surrounding the manufacturing and use of atomic bombs in 1945, Orwell expresses ideas that ominously echo the conversation surrounding the conflict in Ukraine today. Criticising: the formation of 'superstates' (an idea that he would later develop in his novel '1984'), favouring the "State as against the individual", and the idea of a "permanent state of 'cold war'", ironically, Orwell's ideas seem more relevant than ever.

With swiftly growing tensions around nuclear warfare, delving into the works of Orwell, an author who was unabashed in his criticism of permanent warfare and dishonest politics, has never been more important.



as a 'Book of Prophecy'; as his rich experiences of both sides of the political spectrum makes him a worthy oracle. The book eerily echoes our current social situation, with the rise of the surveillance state and governmental control. The book was published in 1949, the very year that NATO was formed, and a short four years after World War II had ended. Within the novel, Orwell satirises the constant conflict over borders which seems to be a recurring reality over 70 years after the book was published. The consistent manipulation of information within the novel is reminiscent of the current propaganda and censorship of the Russian media.

As English Literature students in 2022, it is somewhat terrifying studying such an accurate prediction of our current political climate. Society today continues to amaze us by conforming to Orwell's worst fears, but what comes next? Our lives may continue to become closer and closer to his sinister predictions through the censorship that is no doubt occurring in Russia - we already know that the TV channel Russia Today is banning words such as 'invasion' and 'occupation.' We can only continue to hope and pray that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for our world

**Zoe Mudd, Holly Grammer, Katie Culf**

# Salesian Support

(ANS - Kyiv) - Mobilization throughout the Salesian world continues unabated to bring aid and support to the war-torn population of Ukraine. Solidarity is spreading like wildfire, like a silent and tenacious force, in contrast to the noise of the bombings.

The Salesians of the Slovakian Province (SLK), in collaboration with the Salesians in Lviv and the Ukrainian police, have facilitated the transport and reception of 50 Ukrainian orphans, previously housed in a Salesian care center in Lviv, to Slovakia. The minors are now in the care of Slovak families, and the bus that took them to the border is returning to Ukraine with humanitarian aid, donated by organizations that collaborate with the Salesians and by ordinary Slovak families.

Moreover, from some videos sent by the Salesians of the Province of South Poland (PLS), which has several presences in Ukraine, we have news that Salesians, young people, girls, and volunteers are intent on preparing boxes of basic necessities, loading electric generators... The operations of collecting and packing the goods to be sent to Ukraine are, in truth, only the last piece of a long supply chain that starts from afar, and that sees at its beginning many "professionals of solidarity" - all those workers and volunteers active in the Salesian Mission Offices, in the Foundations, and in the Salesian organizations directly involved in helping the needy.



They are the ones who, in these hours, are keeping in touch with the Salesians on the spot to understand in detail the quantities to be sent, the modalities of aid, the places, the times, the necessary steps... to ensure - beneficiaries and benefactors - that the aid collected reaches its destination. And all together they form a network with many nodes, hubs, and of great extension.

To the many Salesian initiatives already mentioned yesterday, we can add yet others: · The DON BOSCO NEL MONDO Foundation has activated its own campaign to not leave the Salesians alone in their service of assistance to displaced persons. "Frightened children are taking refuge in the basement of the family

house to escape the Russian attacks," the Foundation states, concerned.

· "Salesian Missions," the Salesian Mission Office based in New Rochelle, United States, has established a fund to help support Ukrainian refugees and will launch a campaign. · And "Missão Don Bosco" in Portugal is also taking care of collecting donations and sending them directly to the "theater of operations."

· The Salesian Province of Great Britain (GBR), for its part, has already sent its first donation today and in the meantime remains active in appeals for further resources. Schola are preparing fundraising to help.

· The Salesians of Slovenia (SLO) started collecting funds for the Ukrainian population last Friday.

· The 11 Provinces of India held a meeting just yesterday and determined that each of them will make their own contribution to the work for the Ukrainian people.

· The Province of East Africa (AFE) has also promised to help.

· Considering that the first refugees are already beginning to arrive in Italy, the Sicilian Province (ISI) is collecting the availability of beds to accommodate possible refugees - as of today 26.

And you can be sure that in the coming days these activities will continue and will extend even further, in number and size.

