

**INVITATION - 24 February 2023**  
**WAKE FOLLOWED BY A EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**  
**St. Franciscus Church Ossenmarkt - Antwerp**

On 24 February 2022, the Russian army invaded Ukraine, and the war between the two countries began. Many fled or were forced to fight in the army. Life was turned upside down at a whim, families were torn apart and many suddenly had no safe place to hide.

We are now a year on and the sad fact occurs that this war is still going on. Every day soldiers are dying both on the Ukrainian and Russian sides. There are many innocent victims - children, women and men. People are still fleeing and unsure of their lives. Material damage is very significant - especially essential energy supplies are being compromised.

Our thoughts are especially with those who are burdened by the immediate violence of war, the dead, the wounded, the refugees and the displaced.

Nevertheless, we do not want to be drawn into a negative spiral and we continue to believe that evil will never triumph. We hope that one day peace will prevail.

During this wake, we would like to honour all the fatalities of the past year **by lighting 365 red candles.**

At the same time, we want to express our hope of peace **by bringing 365 white roses.**

You are kindly invited on Friday 24 February 2023 at 18h00 to  
St. Franciscus Church at Ossenmarkt 14, 2000 Antwerp.

The wake followed by a Eucharist will be led by

**Episcopal Vicar EH Emmanuel Ikeobi.**

Afterwards, a solidarity meal will be offered in our community.

**We hope for your attendance and prayers.**

*Fraternity Friars Minor Capuchins*

Br. Luc Vansina, gardian – 0496 741 716

Br. Marcin Derdziuk, rector of the church – 0474 624 031