

Thursday 3 March

2 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

3 Many peoples will come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.'

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war any more.

5 Come, descendants of Jacob,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

A week ago we saw the unthinkable happen, that in this day and age of civilisation, a country would attack another. In many ways we have become desensitized to violence, we hear the statistics in the news of violence that happens around our own country: domestic violence, gang wars, xenophobic attacks etc. These are every day occurrences and they no longer make us sick with disgust. There are uprisings and conflicts that happen within countries on a regular basis and we may pay attention for a while but then it doesn't really affect us and so we forget about them. There are conflicts around the world that have been going on for so long that we no longer pay much attention to them. But a week ago, a world power, Russia, attacked a much smaller, much weaker Ukraine, claiming it was to end a neo-Nazi genocide, claiming it was to secure its own borders, claiming it was to stop Ukraine from