

## Thought for the day – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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### Overcome evil with good

In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by the devil, for forty days. It has been said that there is one letter that separates devil from evil, and one letter that separates God from good!

Archbishops Welby and Cottrell called President Putin's invasion of Ukraine, an act of evil, quite correctly in my view. We live in a world, where much evil is committed, and we need to call it as it is. However, calling the action evil is not the same thing as calling the perpetrator evil. We must be careful about not mixing the two. That is entering into the sort of judgment, which Jesus taught us not to. It is also stripping our enemies of their humanity, which is copying what they do. As Paul writes in Romans 12:1 ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*** We are called to love our enemies, which means to treat them as human beings, however that does not mean that we have to like them or excuse what they have done. Even so, this can be a very difficult and complex thing to do, and we certainly need God's help to do it.

In His confrontation with the devil and evil, Jesus will rely on God as His loving heavenly Father, in God's word written and spoken and in choosing to live God's way of loving service, specially to those who were victims of prejudice, sin and evil. Its a path which would lead Him to the cross and the defeat of evil. That was his purpose in life and His vocation. In the face of evil and temptation, it be our way too.