

Partners Praying Together

February 2021 – Covid-19 Special



BECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGES brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe much of ABM's normal project work has been disrupted. Because of that, we have asked our Overseas Partners to supply us with prayer points that reflect the situation in their country. Included in this edition of *Partners Praying Together* are the prayer points that we have received. We have included these so that you can show prayerful concern for them as they, who like us are 'wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world' (as the prayer from Compline puts it), adjust to living in a time of global pandemic. You'll also find the usual things we would normally have: the feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, and commemorations from the United Nations calendar. All the material is designed to inform your prayers for our Overseas Partners, the bishops and dioceses of our Church and for wider global concerns. With the Psalmist let us pray, 'Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, Lord, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice' (141.2).

1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points s from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?

THIS MONTH WE ARE ASKING YOU not only to remember our each of our Australian dioceses as they grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic, but also each of our each of our Overseas Partners as they deal with it too. Our Overseas Partners consist of Activity Partners (with whom we currently have joint activities), Relational Partners (with whom we have historical relationships) and Networking Partners (with whom we work overseas, or with whom we share information). We have, as the well-used Anglican phrase describes it, strong *bonds of affection* for all of them. Because our overseas work involves both the Church, through our Church-to-Church Unit, and communities, through our Anglicans in Development Unit, we often relate to our partners both through the Church itself and through a particular Church's community development arm. So, as you pray, we ask you to remember each of our Partners (and their community development arms) some of whom are more able to weather through the coronavirus storm than others:

Activity Partners

1. The Anglican Church of Kenya (*ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services*)
2. The Anglican Church of Melanesia (*The Anglican Church of Melanesia's Board of Mission*)
3. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (*Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*)
4. The Church of the Province of Central Africa (*the Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program*)
5. The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) (*the CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks*)
6. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (*E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP*)
7. The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East (*the Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk*)
8. The Philippine Independent Church – *Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI* (*VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI*)

Relational Partners

9. The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China
10. The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (*Anglican Missions Board, AMB*)
11. The Anglican Church of Hong Kong, the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui* 香港聖公會
12. The Anglican Church of Japan, the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai* 日本聖公会
13. The Anglican Church of Korea
14. The Church of Bangladesh
15. The Church of Ceylon
16. The Church of North India
17. The Church of Pakistan

18. The Church of South India
19. The Church of the Province of South East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore)
20. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan (*the Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA*)
21. The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Networking Partners

22. Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)
23. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)
24. USPG (UK and Ireland)
25. Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy
26. Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life
27. CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa
28. The Mothers' Union

Please remember all our partners in your prayers. Whether they are in Port Moresby, London or Seoul, they need our prayers.

Information from our Partners regarding Covid-19 will be put up on our website as it comes to hand.

EACH DAY THIS MONTH

✠ *ABM Prayer Theme: Pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) whether here in Australia, within ABM's Overseas Partners, or beyond – for the souls of all who have died; for the families and friends they have left behind; for the sick; for those so overwhelmed by anxiety that they have resorted to panic buying and hoarding; for children who are now scared of dying; for those in self-isolation or in quarantine; for those unable to work from home; for those whose businesses have been negatively affected; for those whose income is now reduced or who have been laid off; for those more susceptible to the disease – whether by age or underlying medical condition; for those who are unable, for any reason, to worship in their churches or synagogues, mosques or temples. Give thanks for all the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff who are tending to the sick; for the epidemiologists and other scientists who are working towards a vaccine; for those who show kindness to others through 'social distancing', through buying groceries for the elderly, or through phone calls to the isolated; for all those businesses who are able to let their staff work from home; for those who have been buying responsibly in the supermarkets; for those churches who are finding creative ways to engage in worship and prayer online or outside; for all who minister to others in Christ's name in this season of anxiety*

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- ✦ We thank God that most people in Aotearoa New Zealand have been able to celebrate Christmas and the summer break safely with few Covid-related restrictions. We continue to pray against complacency noting how fortunate we have been in fighting the pandemic and give thanks for our Government, medical specialists and health workers who have worked to keep the number of infections so low.
- ✦ We pray for the refugees who were hoping to call New Zealand home but have delayed travel because of Covid. Keep them safe.
- ✦ We pray for our brothers and sisters in Fiji as they rebuild lives and livelihoods following the devastation wrought by Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Thank you for the prompt and professional response of Anglican Churches in Fiji as they support communities to recover.
- ✦ We give thanks for those who have translated prayers and readings into Te Reo Māori for the 2020 edition of *A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* and pray this will lead worshippers to a deeper faith in You.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✦ We pray to God and ask Him to;
 - ~ Give us strength through His divine power to build our life and faith in safe and security in God's unmovable strength.
 - ~ Be our fortress to provide stronghold against enemies.
 - ~ Be our deliverer where he will provide protection
 - ~ Be our shield where God stepping between us and harm
 - ~ Be the horn of Salvation where He gives strength and victories power to deliver and save us from all life adversities.

- ≈ Be our stronghold where He provides a safe place to lift us above the dangers of life. (Psalm 18.2)
- ✦ We give thanks and praise for the missionaries and the preaching and teaching of the Gospel that brought light to the people of the Diocese of North Queensland. We remember them in our prayers as they prepare to celebrate the 150th Anniversary.
- ✦ Pray for the whole of ACPNG as we plan and prepare for planned activities to restore order in the church governance and leadership.
- ✦ Pray for meaningful engagement and participation in all levels of the church structure for effective service delivery in God's mission
- ✦ Pray for resilience in people and communities in living the new normal life affected by the Covid 19 virus.

The Church of the Province of Myanmar

- ✦ Give thanks for having 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccines from India
- ✦ Give thanks for decreasing COVID-19 cases this year
- ✦ Give thanks for the successful general election and the new civil government
- ✦ Pray for internally displaced citizens in conflict areas as they are losing their homes and families because of civil wars between military and ethnic armed groups.
- ✦ Pray for frontline leaders and volunteer as they are serving their lives for patients at quarantine centres.
- ✦ Pray for the Church to be able to reach church members and grow their spirituality amidst critical situations through online services.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✦ Pray for the nation of Iran and Persians everywhere, and most especially for the Anglican Diocese of Iran to find a way to have a new bishop
- ✦ Pray for the ravaged people of the Yemen, where heavily armed outside powers have combined with rival inner factions to play havoc with the life and health of the nation
- ✦ Pray for Bethlehem where the Word of God became incarnate and for all Christ's disciples in the land of that Holy One
- ✦ Pray for sanity to return in places where it has seemed to be absent or beleaguered, not least because of irresponsible populist politicians who care little for truth
- ✦ Pray for all the countries of this Province, each gloriously different, that they may know the freedom of the Kingdom of God: Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Syria, the Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qawain, Ras al Khaimah, Fujairah, the Yemen, Oman, and Cyprus

香港聖公會

The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Anglican Church of Hong Kong

Like the rest of the world, Hong Kong also experienced 2020 which was full of challenges. Politics and pandemic have been exerting a serious impact on our lives. Our society is still besieged with conflict, hostility and strife, fraught relationships among factions and the government are intensifying. Resolution towards tension seems to make little progress, and the way ahead is murky for the foreseeable future. In such strained circumstances, we take a step back and realise that this outbreak may be for us a wake-up call to reflect on whether we have been adequate stewards for God's good earth. We feel difficult as we face the spread of the pandemic, emotional breakdown, economic recession, business suspension, unemployment, rising death toll and so on, we are made fully aware of the fragility of human existence. It is our ardent wish that we can reflect deeply and turn this crisis into an opportunity to learn to put aside our differences, and work together for the future of our next generations to protect the earth and cherish God's creation. In the event of Covid19 outbreak, our Province had to make changes to a number of important services. Although we were disappointed that some ceremonies were behind closed doors, but out of this inconvenience we were able to accommodate and reach a lot more participants over virtual access, which proved that we could achieve positive results in challenging circumstances. Thus we are affirmed that no matter what adversities we face, as long as our hearts and minds are united within the Lord, our prayers, songs of praise, thanksgiving and witness are worth cherishing. Let us ask God to heal our land, that we may embody his kingdom on earth.

- ✦ Pray for the harmony and reconciliation of the society of Hong Kong
- ✦ Pray for constructive dialogue among nations regarding the situation of Hong Kong
- ✦ Pray for the Church, that we may witness the peace and love of God to the society which is full of tension
- ✦ Pray for the newly developed education office, that the education ministry of the Church may manifest the true knowledge of God.
- ✦ Pray for the plan of inauguration of a new missionary diocese - The Diocese of Macau

日本聖公会
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ Give thanks for the faithfulness of NSKK congregations and clergy - who cannot meet physically as Japan is assailed by increased numbers of infections - as they develop more and better resources for remote worship
- ✦ Give thanks for newly ordained clergy in the NSKK and ask God's blessings upon them as they start their ministry in very unusual circumstances
- ✦ Give thanks for the resilience of the population and pray that they do not become fatigued in the face of ongoing health and economic uncertainty
- ✦ Pray for all students as they come to exam season and that they are able to prepare and focus despite the interruption of Covid-19
- ✦ Pray for all those affected by the recent heavy snowfalls and extreme weather throughout the country
- ✦ Pray for all those who work in hospitals and medical facilities as they are stretched to the limit and the provision of Covid-devoted beds runs dangerously low

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Feb	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/index.html#Feb for more information about each
Mon 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Kenya <i>ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya’s Anglican Development Services</i> 	
Tue 2	<p>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Melanesia <i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i> 	
Wed 3	<p>First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove, conducted by Richard Johnson, Sydney 1788</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop-elect the Rev Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people <p><i>Consecration and installation service at St Peter's Cathedral, Armidale, on Saturday 27 February 2021 at 10.00am. (Attendance by invitation only due to Covid-19 restrictions.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i> <p>See p. 4</p>	

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Thu 4	<p>Anskar, missionary bishop in Sweden († 865)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Central Africa <i>The Zambia Anglican Council’s Outreach Program</i> 	
Fri 5	<p>Martyrs of Japan, crucified at Nagasaki († 1597)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Myanmar CPM’s <i>Development Desk</i>, and the diocesan <i>Development Desks</i> <p>See p. 5</p>	
Sat 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church in the Philippines <i>E-CARE</i>, a community development organization of the ECP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
Sun 7	<p>Epiphany 5 [OS 5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East <i>The Diocese of Jerusalem’s Development Desk</i> <p>See p. 5</p>	

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Mon 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippine Independent Church – (<i>Iglesia Filipina Independiente</i>, IFI) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i>) 	
Tue 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China 	
Wed 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia <i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i> <p>See p. 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Pulses Day
Thu 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (<i>Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui</i> 香港聖公會) <p>See p. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Girls and Women in Science

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Fri 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Japan (<i>Nippon Sei Ko Kai</i> 日本聖公会) <p>See p. 7</p>	
Sat 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Korea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Radio Day
Sun 14	<p>Epiphany 6 [OS 6] <i>or the Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Bangladesh 	
Mon 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Tue 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of North India 	
Wed 17	<p>Ash Wednesday – Lent begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Pakistan 	

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Thu 18	<p>The Confession of Peter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of South India 	
Fri 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of South-East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore, with missionary congregations in Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and some parts of Indo-China) 	
Sat 20	<p>William Grant Broughton, first Bishop of Australia († 1853)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of Social Justice
Sun 21	<p>Lent I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – The Very Rev Peter Grice (Bishop-Elect), the clergy and people <p><i>Consecration and installation at St Paul's Cathedral, Rockhampton, on Saturday 27 February at 11.00am</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mother Language Day

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Mon 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Glenn Davies, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	
Tue 23	<p>Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr († ca. 155)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, the Assistant Bishop, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) 	
Wed 24	<p>Matthias, apostle and martyr [may be observed on 14 May]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	
Thu 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	
Fri 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	

Feb	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/index.html#Feb for more information about each
Sat 27	<p>George Herbert, parish priest, poet († 1633)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people • Pray for the Rev Rod Chiswell as he is made Bishop of Armidale this morning • Pray for the Very Rev Peter Grice as he is made Bishop of Rockhampton this morning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	
Sun 28	<p>Lent 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mothers' Union 	

Omissions and displacements in February this year –

14 February: Cyril († 869) and Methodius, bishop († 885), missionaries to the Slavs

17 February: Alternative date for Holy Innocents' Day

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world ...

Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord; and I will heal them – Isaiah 57.19

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA, where there have been 3,263,605 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of South Africa (1,337,926), Morocco (459,671), Tunisia (181,885), Egypt (156,397) and Ethiopia (131,195).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS, where there have been 30,889,863 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of the United States (23,938,288), Brazil (8,511,770), Colombia (1,923,132), Argentina (1,807,396) and Mexico (1,649,502).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN ASIA, where there have been 16,782,206 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of India (10,571,773), Iran (1,330,411), Indonesia (907,929), Iraq (608,232) and Israel (551,689)

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE, where there have been 21,446,672 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of Russia (3,591,066), the United Kingdom (3,395,959), France (2,910,989), Italy (2,381,277) and Spain (2,336,451).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, OCEANIA, where there have been 53,569 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of our own country (28,708), French Polynesia (17,635), Guam (7,485), New Zealand (1,906) and Papua New Guinea (834).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

** Figures from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 14 January 2021. The countries named for each region are the five reporting the most cases.*