

Partners Praying Together



March 2021 – Covid-19 Special Edition

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 Amity Foundation, China

As a Chinese organization we –

- ❖ give thanks for the peace and joy in our heart in the past suffering year which was affected by the Covid-19, disasters and other sufferings.
- ❖ give thanks for the leading and helping of God to fulfill our ministry in different areas of the world
- ❖ give thanks for God strengthening our courage and confidence to overcome all the sufferings.
- ❖ give thanks for the development of the Covid-19 vaccines which gives us the possibility to overcome the disease.

In the new year, we look forward to the God's help, we –

- ❖ pray for a peaceful world. There are still many wars, disasters and disputes in the world. We pray that human beings can be more united in their common sufferings;
- ❖ pray for the people who suffered because of Covid-19.
- ❖ pray for the relieving of hunger of the world, because there are many countries facing the challenge of food shortages in 2021;
- ❖ pray for no more bushfires in Australia and other countries.
- ❖ pray for the Church to have power to fight against the destructive opinions of heresies.

“May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.”(Ps 20.5).

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- ✚ We thank God that the recent Covid-19 community outbreak in Auckland was contained so quickly and that lockdown restrictions were uplifted after a few days. We continue to continue to pray against complacency noting how fortunate Aotearoa New Zealand has been in fighting the pandemic to date.
- ✚ We give thanks for the skill and expertise of medical and public-health professionals who have developed vaccines which are increasingly available and we pray that these vaccines are shared equitably.
- ✚ We pray for the Diocese of Polynesia as it continues to lead by example as it responds to recent cyclones in Fiji and Tonga. Thank you for the way the Church is bringing hope to shattered and struggling communities, including counselling support and help in rebuilding houses and replanting food gardens.
- ✚ We pray for a generous response to the Anglican Missions Lenten Appeal which this year will provide hospital maternity beds in Jerusalem; training for young Christian leaders in Egypt and new water tanks in the Solomon Islands.
- ✚ We remember and pray for the people of Christchurch ten years on from the devastating earthquake that took 185 lives; caused many injuries, changed countless lives and destroyed large parts of the city. We give thanks for the role the Anglican Church continues to take in bringing hope and peace.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✚ Pray for all in the Middle and Near East who are as yet far away from receiving vaccinations.
- ✚ Pray for the people of the Lebanon, suffering from extreme political and economic disruption and dysfunction.
- ✚ Pray for the nation of Iran and for all its citizens to be respected and kept safe irrespective of religion or status.
- ✚ Pray for churches in our region to be given strength to survive multiple lockdowns and the battering of their finances.
- ✚ Pray thankfully for Christian witness and service maintained in so many places despite adversity.
- ✚ Pray for us all to live Lent with Christ.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✦ The Covid-19 pandemic is intensifying in the country with more new cases every day.
- ✦ Pray for the medical teams who are working tirelessly to end the spread of the virus.
- ✦ Pray for pastors who are always in the front line, especially during funerals.
- ✦ Pray for the spirit of reconciliation as most communities are affected by communal conflicts.
- ✦ The economic situation of the country is worsening and many children are leaving homes to live on the streets. Pray for God's intervention.

香港聖公會

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

- ✦ Pray for the health of all medical and nursing professionals serving in all hospitals and clinics
- ✦ Pray for the availability and arrangements of vaccination against COVID-19 in the coming months
- ✦ Pray for the unemployed, especially those who lost their job due to the pandemic.
- ✦ Pray for the normal school life for all teachers and students
- ✦ Pray for the medical ministry of the Church, especially those who serve in the underprivileged areas
- ✦ Pray for the Lent programme "The Daily Word" of the Province so that all faithful in Hong Kong and Macau may have their spiritual renewal.

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ Pray for the people of Tohoku in Northern Japan as they commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Great East Japan earthquake this month, and as they try to rebuild their lives following a very strong earthquake in mid-February.
- ✦ Give thanks for the commencement of the vaccination programme in Japan and pray for an orderly distribution to those who need it most.
- ✦ Pray for doctors, nurses and all involved in the medical industry as the pandemic continues, and also takes its toll on their health and lives; ask God to uphold them in his loving arms.

- ✦ Give thanks for the arrival of warmer weather as the country moves in to Spring; for the beauty of God's creation as flowers bloom and buds blossom.
- ✦ Pray for all those suffering from hay fever in this nation (estimated to be over 40% of the population); as the cedar pollen affecting most is predicted to be particularly strong this year
- ✦ Give thanks for the continuing decrease in cases of Covid-19 nationwide and the lifting of localized States of Emergency throughout the country.

For access to the electronic version of *Partners Praying Together*, go to www.abmission.org/partners-praying-together



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Mar	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#March for more information about each
Mon 1	<p>David, Bishop of Menevia, Wales († 601)</p> <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Discrimination Day
Tue 2	<p>Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, missionary († 672)</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	<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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wildlife Day
Thu 4	<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> 	

Mar	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#March for more information about each
Fri 5	<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> 	
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 	
Sun 7	<p>Lent 3</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>	
Mon 8	<p>John of God, worker among the sick and poor, Spain († 1550)</p> <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women’s Day

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Tue 9	<p>Sister Emma SSA, Superior of the Society of the Sacred Advent, Queensland († 1939)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, the Assistant Bishop, 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 <p>See p. 4</p>	
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. 5</p>	
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>	
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. 6</p>	

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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 	
Sun 14	Lent 4 <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	Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland († 461) <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 	
Thu 18	Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and teacher († 386) <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 	

Mar	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#March for more information about each
Fri 19	Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, the regional bishops, 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	Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary († 687) <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> <p>See p. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Happiness French Language Day
Sun 21	Lent 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Poetry Day International Day of Nowruz World Down Syndrome Day International Day of Forests

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Mon 22	<p>Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher († 1711)</p> <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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Water Day
Tue 23	<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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day
Wed 24	<p>Paul Couturier, ecumenist († 1953) Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr († 1980)</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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Tuberculosis Day International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
Thu 25	<p>The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing UN Staff Members

Mar	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#March for more information about each
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 	
Sat 27	George Herbert, parish priest, poet († 1633) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	
Sun 28	Palm Sunday <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 	
Mon 29	Holy Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 		
Tue 30	Holy Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 		
Wed 31	Holy Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 		

Omissions and displacements in March this year –

7 March: Perpetua and her companions, martyrs at Carthage († 203)

21 March: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr and liturgist († 1556)

29 March: John Keble, priest († 1866)

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 3,754,326 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (1,491,807), Morocco (478,474), Tunisia (223,549), Egypt (173,813) and Ethiopia (147,092).

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 48,933,836 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (27,694,168), Brazil (9,866,710), Colombia (2,198,549), Argentina (2,029,008) and Mexico (1,995,892).

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 20,826,077 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (10,916,589), Iran (1,518,263), Indonesia (1,217,468), Israel (727,485) and Iraq (643,852).

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 35,633,482 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (4,086,090), the United Kingdom (4,038,078), France (3,465,163), Spain (3,086,286) and Italy (2,721,879).

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 58,071 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (28,900), French Polynesia (18,263), Guam (7,699), New Zealand (1,980) and Papua New Guinea (955).

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

** Figures are the latest available from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 18 February 2021.*