

Partners Praying Together

May 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).

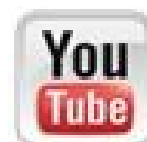
1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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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 continue to deal with the effects of Covid-19, but also each of our each of our Overseas Partners as they grapple with the pandemic. 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 have worked towards vaccines; 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 pray for the Diocese of Polynesia as it responds to the long-term impact of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and faces the prospect of a possible Covid outbreak in Fiji. Thank you for the impact the Church is having in so many communities and for the effectiveness of its response to recent weather events.
We give thanks for the 'travel bubble' between Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia which is helping families and friends to reunite after Covid-related travel restrictions. We acknowledge how fortunate our two countries have been compared with so many other parts of the world.
- ✦ We pray for people being recruited to help roll-out the vaccination programme. Please keep them safe.
- ✦ We give thanks for the commitment of so many Anglicans who made submissions to the Climate Change Commission on how Aotearoa New Zealand can best move towards to a thriving, climate-resilient and low emissions future (The Wellington Diocese alone accounted for 8% of all submissions received by the Government).
- ✦ We give thanks for the generosity of so many parishes that continue to support global mission in spite of growing social and economic concerns at home.

The Church of the Province of Myanmar

- ✦ For the unity among Christian denominations in Myanmar
- ✦ For the speedy return to the civilian rule in our country
- ✦ For the safety of protesters against the junta
- ✦ For the successful and peaceful democratization in our country

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✠ Pray for those in Gulf countries suffering a crisis of self-esteem and worry for their families at losing their jobs.
- ✠ Pray for the Anglican parishes of Abu Dhabi in the UAE and of Doha in Qatar to find and welcome new stipendiary priests.
- ✠ Pray for the nation of Iran and for the Anglican diocese that, poor in resources and numbers, seeks to serve it, and for a bishop to be found.
- ✠ Pray for all who live in Palestine / Israel and in the other countries of the Diocese of Jerusalem: Jordan, the Lebanon, and Syria.
- ✠ Pray for Bishop Hosam Naoum, to be enthroned as diocesan bishop on Ascension Day with the honorary title Archbishop in Jerusalem.
- ✠ Give thanks for the ministry of his predecessor Bishop Suheil Dawani as he retires.

The Anglican Church of Korea

- ✠ Pray for people who suffer from Covid 19.
- ✠ Pray for love and faith to grow within the Christians despite the difficulties of the lockdown.
- ✠ Pray for young people to receive Jesus' love.
- ✠ Pray for the Korea-Japan Anglican Church meeting on 26 May 2021.
- ✠ Pray for the Korean Anglican newspaper and the university.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✠ We give thanks to God for the reduction of new cases for covid-19 in South Sudan.
- ✠ Pray for the increased number of widows and orphans in the country and their struggle to get food and medication.
- ✠ The Primate is on his pastoral duties/visits to Internal Provinces, pray for logistical provision.
- ✠ Pray for finances for the completion of the Guest House and renovation of the old blog and the restaurant.
- ✠ Pray for all friends of the Province to continue supporting the covid-19 response needs.

香港聖公會

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

- ✦ Give thanks for the recent adoption of a safeguarding policy in the province and pray for its implementation
- ✦ Pray for an increase in the awareness of child protection in the city arising from the trial of a deadly child abuse case
- ✦ Pray for the work being carried out to set up the Missionary Area of Macau as a missionary diocese and for the ministry in Macau
- ✦ Pray for the people's confidence in the COVID vaccines, that more citizens may be willing to be vaccinated for the protection of all
- ✦ Pray for God's company and comfort for those who are unable to be with their loved ones because of the pandemic
- ✦ Pray for the reconciliation among those who hold different political views and for God's healing of the fracture in the city

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ As the NSKK sets aside a day to pray for the environment, give thanks for this year's COP26 meeting scheduled for November in Scotland, and all those whose efforts work to safeguard the integrity of God's creation
- ✦ Please pray for Japan as it battles a fourth wave of Covid-19 which seems to be greater and more deadly than previous waves; a situation exacerbated by increasingly full hospital emergency wards throughout the country
- ✦ Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Zerubbabel Hirota, formerly Bishop of the diocese of Kita-Kanto who retired recently and pray for him in this new stage of his life
- ✦ As the NSKK continues to press for a world without nuclear power, please pray that all nations may look at renewable sources of energy or consider changes in lifestyle necessary to reduce our energy consumption
- ✦ Give thanks for the warmer weather and the chance to be with friends and family outside, and as we think of those around the world restricted in their movements, help us understand that should never be taken for granted

✦ Please pray for all who feel isolated or depressed in the midst of this pandemic, as suicide rates continue to increase; we also pray for those who sit with and support and comfort them

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



A British stamp featuring the sixth-century missionary, St Augustine of Canterbury, who was instrumental in the conversion of England. His feast day is observed on 26 May.

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

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May	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Sat 1	Philip and James, apostles and martyrs [May be observed on 3 May] <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> 	
Sun 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Tuna Day
Mon 3	Philip and James, apostles and martyrs [May be observed on 1 May] <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 Press Freedom Day
Tue 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> 	

May	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Wed 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> <p>See p. 4</p>	
Thu 6	<p>John, apostle and evangelist [If not observed on 27 December]</p> <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"> Global Road Safety Week begins
Fri 7	<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>	
Sat 8	<p>Julian of Norwich, holy woman and mystic († 1417)</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"> World Migratory Bird Day Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War

May	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Sun 9	Sixth Sunday of Easter <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 	
Mon 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><i>See p. 4</i></p>	
Tue 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><i>See p. 6</i></p>	
Wed 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><i>See p. 6</i></p>	
Thu 13	Ascension Day <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 <p><i>See p. 5</i></p>	

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Fri 14	Matthias, apostle and martyr [If not observed on 24 February] <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 	
Sat 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Families
Sun 16	Seventh Sunday of Easter [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins in the Southern Hemisphere] <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Living Together in Peace International Day of Light
Mon 17	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
Tue 18	<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 	

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Wed 19	<p>Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury († 998)</p> <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) 	
Thu 20	<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. 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bee Day
Fri 21	<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 Tea Day World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
Sat 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"> NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Anglican Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Biological Diversity

May	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Sun 23	Pentecost <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"> Nungalingya College, Darwin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
Mon 24	John († 1791) and Charles († 1788) Wesley, evangelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns 	
Tue 25	Bede of Jarrow, priest and teacher († 735) <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"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories begins
Wed 26	Augustine of Canterbury, missionary and bishop († 605) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon
Thu 27	[Week of Prayer for Reconciliation begins – till 3 June] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	

May	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Fri 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	
Sat 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of UN Peacekeepers
Sun 30	Trinity Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	
Mon 31	The Visitation of the BVM to Elizabeth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mothers' Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World No Tobacco Day

Omissions and displacements in May this year –

2 May: Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, teacher († 373)

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 4,431,639 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (1,566,769), Morocco (505,811), Tunisia (278,061), Ethiopia (242,028) and Egypt (216,334)

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 60,380,341 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (31,670,846), Brazil (13,973,695), Argentina (2,714,413), Colombia (2,667,136) and Mexico (2,306,910).

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 28,782,011 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (15,061,919), Iran (2,237,089), Indonesia (1,604,348), Iraq (977,175) and the Philippines (936,133).

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 48,142,304 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are France (5,289,526), Russia (4,702,101), the United Kingdom (4,387,820), Turkey (4,268,447) and Italy (3,870,131).

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 68,956 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (29,519), French Polynesia (18,696), Papua New Guinea (9,799) Guam (7,879), and New Zealand (2,240)

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 22 April 2021.*