

Partners Praying Together

April 2022 – 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).

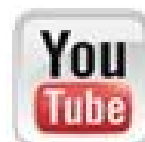
1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points s from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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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 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

- ✚ **Pray for** all those affected by Covid-19 worldwide, especially those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for those suffering from long Covid; for all those who are currently infected, especially children; for all whose businesses or employment has been affected by the pandemic; for the people of the Ukraine, and for all like them who suffer the misery of conflict around the world.
- ✚ **Give thanks for** the medical staff who have been working so tirelessly; for the development of vaccines; for the way in which people have been flexible and managed to cope despite the difficulties; for all those who have shown kindness to their neighbours throughout the course of the pandemic so far; for the way that churches have been able to use technology to keep in touch with their communities.

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Church of the Province of South-East Asia

- ✚ Give thanks to God that despite the many challenges and restrictions in the past 2 years, churches can still gather together to worship Him onsite or online. Thank the Lord for every soul saved and added to the Church during this time, for it is truly the work of His Holy Spirit.
- ✚ Pray for churches as the nations in our Province move towards reopening of borders and economy activities, that the Lord will lead us to strengthen the mission and ministries of the Church.
- ✚ Pray for students, especially those in the rural and remote areas in our Province, where internet accessibility is low. The education of these students were greatly affected when classes went online.
- ✚ Pray for healing for Covid patients as numbers of infection remain high. Pray that people who recover will not suffer long Covid effect. Pray for children and teenagers, where the long-term effects of vaccination are still unknown.
- ✚ Pray for the destitute, who are hugely affected by rising food prices. Ask the Lord to reveal to His people opportunities amidst adversities.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✚ Pray in thanksgiving for the adaptability and resilience of so many in the churches of our complicated region.
- ✚ Pray for an improvement in relations between Iran and the Western powers and a better future for all Christians in Iran.
- ✚ Pray for the place of Christians to be actively respected in the Holy Land and especially in the city of Jerusalem.

- ✦ Pray for all to be enabled to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and for an end to absurd conspiracy theories and their promoters.
- ✦ Pray for Christians, Muslims, Jews, Druze, Yezidis, and followers of other religions and of none to have a sense of the common good of humanity and to act on it in these hard times.

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

- ✦ Give thanks for the work of the diocesan harassment prevention committees as they meet at provincial level this month, and ask for God's wisdom and care for the vulnerable to be upon all the decisions they make
- ✦ Please pray for the General Meeting of the Japan Federation of Christian Associations as they discuss how to take forward ecumenical work in this country
- ✦ Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, former bishop of Hokkaido and Primate of NSKK, as he enters retirement and pray for his successor, Maria Grace Tazu Sasamori on her consecration and installation as Bishop of Hokkaido
- ✦ Please pray for all those beginning new stages of life at school or in the working world (April marks the start of new academic and business years)
- ✦ Give thanks for the continuing decrease in the number of Covid infections nationwide, and lift to God all those working in the medical field
- ✦ Please pray for Japan as the country reopens to visitors and starts to lift restrictions around gathering

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



An Easter postage stamp from Hungary featuring the victorious Lamb that was slain.

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Australia*

Apr	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 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> 	
Sat 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the 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 Autism Awareness Day
Sun 3	<p>Lent 5</p> <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> 	
Mon 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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
Tue 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 <i>CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Conscience

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Wed 6	<p>Frederic Barker, bishop and pioneer of theological education and the General Synod († 1882)</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, a community development organization of the ECP</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
Thu 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the 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. 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day
Fri 8	<p>Gorgiana Molloy, pioneer church leader and botanist from Western Australia († 1843)</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, IFI</i>) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i> 	
Sat 9	<p>William Law, priest and teacher († 1761) Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian († 1945)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, 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 	

Apr	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 10	Palm Sunday <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> 	
Mon 11	Holy Monday <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) 	
Tue 12	Holy Tuesday <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) <i>See p. 5</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Human Space Flight
Wed 13	Holy Wednesday <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 	
Thu 14	Maundy Thursday Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Chagas Disease Day

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Fri 15	<p>✠ Good Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Sat 16	<p>Holy Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of North India 	
Sun 17	<p>Easter Day</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 	
Mon 18	<p>Easter Monday</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 	

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Tue 19	Easter Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishops Jeremy James TSSF, Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	<p>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)</p> <p><i>See p. 4</i></p>	
Wed 20	Easter Wednesday <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"> Chinese Language Day
Thu 21	Easter Thursday <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"> World Creativity and Innovation Day
Fri 22	Easter Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Girls in ICT Day International Mother Earth Day

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Sat 23	Easter Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nungalinga College, Darwin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book and Copyright Day English Language Day Spanish Language Day
Sun 24	Easter 2 <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
Mon 25	St Mark, evangelist and martyr <i>ANZAC Day</i> <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"> World Malaria Day International Delegates' Day
Tue 26	<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"> International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day World Intellectual Property Day
Wed 27	<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) 	
Thu 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Apr	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 29	Catherine of Siena, spiritual teacher († 1380) <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 	
Sat 30	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Jazz Day

Displacements and Omissions this year

3 Apr: Richard of Chichester, bishop († 1256)

11 Apr: George Augustus Selwyn, first missionary bishop of New Zealand († 1878)

21 Apr: Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, teacher († 1109)

23 Apr: George, martyr († ca. 303)

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 11,434,995 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (3,694,504), Morocco (1,162,096), Tunisia (1,029,596), Libya (500,304) and Egypt (495,373).

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 149,518,189 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (79,562,252), Brazil (29,380,063), Argentina (8,975,961), Colombia (6,077,288) and Mexico (5,607,845).

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 109,376,701 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (42,993,494), Iran (7,123,093), South Korea (6,866,222), Vietnam (6,377,438) and Indonesia (5,900,124).

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 183,944,230 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are France (23,495,797), the United Kingdom (19,767,359), Russia (17,376,241), Germany (17,298,064) and Turkey (14,530,309).

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 3,904,300 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (3,216,770), New Zealand (376,676), French Polynesia (70,436), Fiji (64,081) and New Caledonia (58,489).

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 17 March 2022.*