



February 2023 – Covid-19 Special Edition

B ECAUSE 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?

HIS 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, though 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 Honiara, Juba or Vancouver, 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

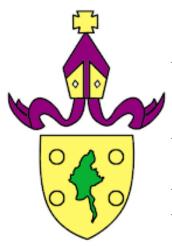
- Lord of all power and might, giver of strength and joy, transform the poverty of our nature into the riches of Your grace, that in changing us, Your grace and goodness may be revealed to all who know us.
- Pray for: those who have been affected by record-breaking floods in the Kimberley region of Western Australia as well as flooding in South Australia; for those in Western Australia who have been affected by bushfires; for the 4000+ Ukrainian asylum seekers in Australia, here as a result of the Russian invasion; for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who represent 3% of the population but who are overrepresented at 29% of the adult prison population. Pray that the systemic issues that cause this may be addressed; for children's rights in Australia that the minimum age of criminal responsibility be raised from 10 to 14, the internationally-accepted age; for Indigenous children who are 20 time more likely to be incarcerated than their non-Indigenous peers; for the rights of the elderly, especially remembering those who are illegally 'medicated' in care homes because of their dementia; that Australia will endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, an intergovernmental pledge now supported by 112 countries to protect education in times of conflict.
- Give thanks for the medical staff who have been working so tirelessly during the pandemic; 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; for Australia's low unemployment rate; for the Federal Government's commitment to end violence against women and children within a generation; for the recent establishment of the national anti-corruption commission; for all those who volunteer in organisations to help Australia to become a better place.
- Holy God, we thank You for making Yourself known to us in the blessings of life, and most of all in the person of Jesus the Christ.

Prayer Points from our *Overseas Partners*~

The Anglican Church of Melanesia



- Pray for clergy movements as they begin to move to their various Parishes - especially for the new Dean of St Barnabas' Cathedral as he moves into deanery soon. Pray for the different ministries in the Parishes.
- For the Provincial and Diocesan offices as they begin work again as enablers of mission work to the whole church.
- Pray for Schools as they begin academic programs for 2023. We pray for teachers and students.
- Continue to pray for big projects ahead: John Coleridge Patteson University (JCPU), the board members and the fundraising committee; and for the proposed new ACOM offices.
- +++ Continue to pray for a replacement Southern Cross vessel to take the gospel between the islands.



The Church of the Province of Myanmar

- +++ Pray for the Anglican Training and Resource Centre building as we are working on the paper works to get the legal permit to use this building by June 2023.
- ++ Pray for Holy Cross seminarians as we are operating classes both in person in online.
- Pray for our faculty and their families. +++
- +++ Pray for our country.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

+++ For an end to hostility to Christians by Jewish extremists in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, where graves have recently been desecrated and broken.

- In thanksgiving for patient dialogue, for friendship, and for deepening understanding between Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other faiths in our region.
- ↔ For Michael, Primate of our Province, and all whom he serves.
- ↔ For Hosam, Archbishop in Jerusalem, and all whom he serves.
- For the Diocese of Iran, much harried and diminished, in its persistent witness in that land, that believers there may always be faithful.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

- Pray for the preparation of the dioceses for the upcoming Diocesan Conventions in February and April.
- For the strengthening of mission in Southern Luzon, particularly in Laguna Province thru the Diocese of Central Philippines; and the new mission work in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija under the Diocese of Santiago.
- For peaceful cessation and resolution of the ongoing tribal conflict between two communities in the Diocese of Northern Philippines which resulted to the death of two persons.
- Pray for the better weather conditions in Mindanao and Visayas
 which has been receiving continued rain since the start of this year. The National
 Disaster Management Council reported 35 deaths and major damage in agriculture and infrastructure.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

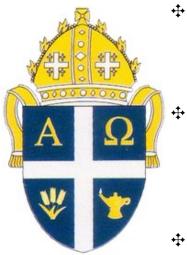
- We give thanks to God the three-day Revival conference concluded late last month in Juba Diocese.
- We pray for the Pilgrimage of peace to South Sudan by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and Pope Francis from the Vatican. Pray that their visit will embrace the long-awaited peace.
- The Mission Department recently held a five-day discipleship training for thirty facilitators, pray that this program will bear much fruit in ECSS, as we're implementing the Episcopal Decade of discipleship and training.







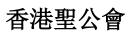
The Church of the Province of South-East Asia



- Continue to pray for a stable government in Malaysia, both at the Federal level as well as the state levels. Pray against any form of racial and religious extremism from perpetuating in the nation.
- Pray for the churches in our Province in the midst of changing laws concerning same sex relationships and marriages. Pray that the Church will uphold the unfailing truth of the Scriptures without any compromise, yet do so with the compassion of Christ
- Pray for the dioceses in our Province as we are moving towards creating area dioceses to be more effective in ministry, mission,

discipleship and raising up the next generation of clergy, pastors and leaders in various contexts.

- Pray for protection against flood related damages during the monsoon rainy season in South East Asia, especially Kalimantan and Sumatra (Indonesia), Malaysia and Southern Philippines.
- Pray for the nations in our Province as the people combat against rising costs of living, food and fuel prices and economic hardship. Pray for a year of recovery in 2023.



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



- As the Year of the Rabbit rolls around, we pray that everyone in Hong Kong can celebrate this time of the year with loving company, be it family, friends, or strangers. We pray that each of us can be a good neighbour, especially to those who have burrowed into their own isolated tunnels, either out of fear or distrust. We pray that we can be worthy conduits of God's healing love to those who need it the most, and that we may not forget those who are in need when we ourselves are in the midst of festivities.
- Give thanks that pandemic restrictions are gradually easing, church service capacity limits are lifted, and that communion under both kinds is resumed. May these visible signs of our

fellowship and communion return in full such that all children of God can gather once more without separation.

 We pray that political disputes can be resolved in peace and not with a vicious cycle of growing animosity. May all affected parties find the courage to truly communicate with each other.

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

- ✤ Give thanks for the compassion and commitment of all who work in the medical and healthcare industry, especially during this cold time of year and as cases of influenza and Covid continue to rise in Japan. Ask God to bless all doctors, nurses and auxiliaries in their duties when the hours are long and the work tiring.
- Please remember all who suffer from leprosy and other chronic sicknesses and conditions and pray that they may know God's presence in their suffering; and His peace in their anxiety.



- ✤ Give thanks for the often unnoticed work of all committees and other meetings within the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, and ask God to bless and inspire them as they look forward in faith in increasingly difficult times.
- Please pray for Japanese attendance at international meetings taking place this month: the USPG international consultation in Tanzania and the Anglican Consultative Council ACC-18 in Ghana. Pray for the work of all interpreters at these meetings and also that the all churches may learn from each other and despite differences, commit to continue walking together in the way of Christ.
- Give thanks for the work of the Anglican Church in caring for minority groups, especially at the Ikuno Centre in Osaka, and the wider ethnic Korean community throughout Japan.
- And as Lent starts, please pray for all those following individual Lenten paths, that this year they may find a renewed and strengthened faith, a deeper understanding of God's love, and themselves on a closer walk with our Lord Jesus.

For access to the electronic version of *Partners Praying Together*, go to http://www.abmission.org/resources/missional-prayers





A Serbian postage stamp featuring the two great missionary brothers, SS Cyril and Methodius, whose Feast Day is on Tuesday 14 February. For more information, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Cyril_and_Methodius

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

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Please send your stamps to -

The Anglican Board of Mission, Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, New South Wales 1230.



For access to the electronic version of the worldwide Anglican Cycle of Prayer, go to anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer/download-the-acp.aspx

		ARM Dartner	UN Days
Feb	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	+ development arm – where appropriate	see www.un.org/en/observances/ international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
L Ked	 The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee 	 The Anglican Church of Kenya ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services 	 World Interfaith Harmony Week begins (till 7 February)
Thu 2	 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the clergy and people 	 The Anglican Church of Melanesia The ACOM Board of Mission See p. 4 	• World Wetlands Day
м Т.	 Commemoration of the first Anglican service at Sydney Cove, conducted by the Rev Richard Johnson, Sydney 1788 The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	 The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea 	
Sat 4	 Anskar, missionary bishop in Sweden († 865) The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people 	 The Church of the Province of Central Africa The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program 	 International Day of Human Fraternity

Feb	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 5	 Epiphany 5 [Ordinary Sunday 5] The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. 	 The Church of the Province of Myanmar CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks 	
		See p. 4	
Mon 6	• The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people	 The Episcopal Church in the Philippines E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP 	 International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
		See <i>p.</i> 5	
Tue 7	• The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the clergy and people	 The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East The Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk 	
		See p. 4	
8 Ked	• The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people	 The Philippine Independent Church – (La Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI) 	

9 9	 The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, the clergy and people 	 The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China 	
Fri 10	 Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces 	 The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Anglican Missions Board, AMB 	• World Pulses Day
Sat II	• The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people	 The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui 香港聖公會) See p. 6 	• International Day of Women and Girls in Science
Sun 12	• The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people	 The Anglican Church of Japan (Nippon Sci Ko Kai 日本聖公会) See p. 7 	
Mon 13	 Epiphany 6 Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people 	• The Anglican Church of Korea	• World Radio Day
Tue 14	 Cyril († 869) and Methodius († 885), missionaries to the Slavs Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	The Church of Bangladesh	

Feb	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 15	 The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people 	The Church of Ceylon	
Thu 16	 The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people 	• The Church of North India	
Fri 17	 Holy Innocents' Day if not observed on 28 December The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people 	• The Church of Pakistan	
Sat 18	 The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people 	• The Church of South India	
Sun 19	 Epiphany 7 [Ordinary Sunday 7] or Last Sunday after the Epiphany The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; BishopKate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	 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) See p. 6 	

Mon 20	 William Grant Broughton, first Bishop of Australia († 1853) The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people 	 The Episcopal Church of South Sudan The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUIDRA See p. 5 	• World Day of Social Justice
Tue 21	 The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	The Episcopal Church of Sudan	 International Mother Language Day
Wed 22	 Ash Wednesday The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people 	 NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council 	
Thu 23	 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr († ca. 155) The Diocese of Tasmania –Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, clergy and people 	Nungalinya College, Darwin	
Fri 24	 Matthias, apostle and martyr <i>may be observed on 14 May</i> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	 Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns 	
Sat 25	 The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people 	 Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	

Feb	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	Lent I	The Primate's World Relief and	
26	 The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	Development Fund (Canada)	
Mon	George Herbert, parish priest, poet († 1633)	• USPG (UK and Ireland)	
27	 The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop-Elect Jeremy James TSSF, the clergy and people 		
Tue 28	Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers	 Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	

Displacements and Omissions in February this year:

5 February: The Martyrs of Japan († 1597)

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

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you. – Psalm 5.11

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Malawi, Ghana, and Cabo Verde. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Réunion, Zambia and South Africa.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in the US Virgin Islands, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by the United States of America, Brazil and Mexico.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS AROUND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. . Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Lebanon, Qatar, and Iran,

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Spain, Albania and Montenegro. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Germany, Italy and France.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Bhutan and Nepal. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Indonesia, India, and Thailand.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, THE WESTERN PACIFIC. No country has reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater compared to the previous week. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord: Let them ever sing for joy.

* Statistics are the latest available from the WHO and are accurate as of 19 January 2023. Infection rates are now decreasing in most parts of the world., however, there is concern over new variants and over the effects of long covid. Death rates are continuing to fall in most parts of the world. Globally, as of 24 January 2023, there have been 664,618,938 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,722,949 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 16 January 2023, a total of 13,131,550,798 vaccine doses have been administered.

Personal Prayers~