



December 2020 – Covid-19 Special

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 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

- ↔ We pray for the health and wellbeing of those who have been involved in combating and defeating the coronavirus;
- ↔ We pray for the booming of economy soon so that more people would be able to find jobs more easily;
- ↔ We pray for the ministry of the Amity foundation, pray that under the challenges of coronavirus, Amity could serve more needy people in a professional way;
- ✤ Pray that the world will be working together more closely toward the SDGs as a united world.

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- ↔ We acknowledge how fortunate we are in Aotearoa New Zealand to have a strong health system that is keeping on top of the pandemic. We continue to give thanks to all health-care workers who are doing all they can to help keep the population safe and healthy.
- ↔ As governments around the world scramble to secure access to Covid-19 vaccines for their citizens, we pray for smaller nations which may not have the financial ability to be first in first served. We think especially of Pacific Island countries which have, by and large, been able to keep the pandemic at bay.
- ↔ We pray for equitable and affordable access to vaccines for all countries regardless of size and wealth.
- ↔ We continue to give thanks for the extraordinary work of the Diocese of Polynesia as it supports communities (e.g. communal gardens on church compounds) in mitigating the impacts that the loss of jobs and income have brought to so many parts of Fiji and Tonga.

We are thankful that so many parishes and individuals continue to support overseas mission in spite of difficulties and problems at home.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- Pray for the efforts of all in the world in the fight against Covid 19 Pandemic, development of safe and effective vaccine to be used to treat Covid 29 virus.
- Pray for the European countries experiencing second wave of Covid 19 community transmission and all-out effort to fight against it.
- Pray for ACPNG for preparation and planning for the year 2021 for effective governance, leadership and delivery of services in church mission in spread of the gospel, education and health in all levels of the community and their geographical locations.
- We gaze up to the Lord with earnest prayer to conquer the trials and tribulations brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic. Lord, you are the healer, life giver and sustainer. Through faith, hope and love in your divine power and by the Holy Spirit our helper, comforter and director, restore life in its fullness for all and bring forth normalcy in lives again. Amen.

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

- ✤ Pray for the ministry of young people in our Province
- Pray for the women's ministry, especially those who helping victims of Gender-based violence.
- Give thanks that we have been able to plant churches in areas where we did not have the Anglican presence before.
- ✤ Pray for the evangelism and the Lay training team.
- Pray for people who lost livelihoods due the pandemic and are now struggling to survive.
- ✤ Give thanks for the Completion of the Multi-purpose Centre for Church ministries.

The Church of the Province of Myanmar

 Pray for the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still high at the moment to be reduced soon and safety for affected victims, doctors, nurses and volunteers, including Christian youths and youth pastors who have been serving since the onset of the pandemic.

- ✤ Pray for COVID 19 vaccines to be accessible for people soon.
- Pray for the peace process to be successful with all the armed forces and the government army signing the agreement for ceasefire.
- Pray for peace for armed conflict areas and for the Internally-Displaced Persons¹ who lost their homes and properties.
- Pray for the mission work of the Church of the Province of Myanmar to continue because churches are still closed and cannot do services.

The Church of the Province of South-East Asia

- We thank the Lord and praise God that the House of Bishops of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia has on 27th October 2020, appointed the Revd. Canon Dr. D Steven Abbarow as the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia.
- ✤ Ask the Lord to grant us wisdom, innovation, creativity, determination and love in ministering to God's people and reaching out to a world with faith and hope.
- Pray for the smooth running of Synod 2020 of the Diocese of Sabah, to be conducted from 4-5 December 2020 entirely online.
- Pray for a meaningful Christmas Celebration. Though our movement is restricted, God's powerful message of hope and love, and His presence that brings peace will be present in every home and heart.
- Pray for God's protection and mercy over the people of this region, especially the children, the elderly, medical personnel, and all who work in environment where close contact with people cannot be avoided.
- Pray for healing of all those who are in need of healing, especially the Covid-19 patients. Plead for God's mercy to prevent the spread of the virus in the midst of political and economic turmoil

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Pray for all the families and communities affected by the recent strong typhoons (Molave, Goni and Vamco, locally named Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses, respectively) that they be blessed with hope and strength as they rebuild lives and livelihoods. As well as loss of lives, there has been displacement of thousands and thousands of people, flooding that inundated cities and villages, billions of pesos worth of loss and damage to agricultural products and production. Pray for the eternal repose of the souls of those have passed as a result of the storms as well as continuing divine comfort on their families and loved ones.

¹ Internally-Displaced Persons are those who need to leave their homes due to war, earthquake, etc but remain within the borders of their country.

- Pray for those who care for the victims of these calamities and those who provide for their needs, especially the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Luzon and the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines who are conducting relief operations in some affected communities.
- Pray for the Filipino people as they continue to battle against the health, economic and social effects of the covid-19 pandemic; that all people in the country be blessed with vigilance and equipped with resources to be able to perform the necessary protocols to contain the infections; that medical frontliners be endowed with strength, endurance and caring hands as they continue to minister to all those affected by the virus physically, mentally and psychologically.
- Pray for those whose livelihoods have been lost or damaged because of the pandemic and the series of disasters that have visited the country; pray that they will find other opportunities to be able to support themselves and their families.
- Pray for the safety of all Christians and those of other faiths who are participating in the limited attendance in-person worship services and for the continued spiritual nourishment of the faithful as they worship virtually or in-person. Pray that the various local congregations and members of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines that they will find meaningful opportunities and be able to affirm and exercise their Baptismal vows during these most difficult times.
- Pray for the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines as it meets virtually on 11 December 2020 that its members will be able to find good connectivity to be able to participate meaningfully and productively in the meetings so that the Council will be able to intelligently make decisions to enhance the work and mission of the Church especially during these trying times.
- Pray for the Bishops, clergy and lay leaders of the Church that they will continue to provide meaningful servant leadership and speak and demonstrate God's word at this time.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ↔ Pray for those trapped by the pandemic in places far from the lands of their birth.
- ✤ Pray for all who have lost their jobs or had their pay cut.
- Pray for the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf and its mixed congregations of multiple nationalities.
- ✤ Pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem and especially its institutions of service and care.
- ✤ Pray for the Diocese of Iran in its need for a bishop.

香港聖公會 The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Anglican Church of Hong Kong

- Give thanks for the relatively low cases of COVID-19 in HK over the past few months.
 Pray for continued restraint of the virus, especially for containment of an outbreak in the past few days.
- Pray for those who are particularly afflicted by the economic slowdown in HK: the poor and homeless, and those who have lost income or work.
- ✤ Pray for healing in HK after the political tensions and divisions over the past year.
- Give thanks for the ministry of Archbishop Paul Kwong and pray for him as he retires.
- Give thanks for the appointments of Bishop Matthias Der as the new Bishop of HK Island and Archbishop-elect Andrew Chan as the new Archbishop of the Province of Hong Kong. Pray for wisdom, faithfulness, and godliness for these men in their leadership.

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✤ Give thanks for the successful completion of Provincial synod recently and pray for the NSKK as it considers its future in a post-COVID world
- Give thanks for the election at synod of Luke Kenichi Muto, Bishop of Kyushu, as the new Primate and pray for him to be able to balance his ministry of diocesan bishop with his new role as Primate
- Give thanks for all essential workers and especially those who work unsocial hours who keep the nation running and people safe
- Pray for the doctors, nurses and medical staff in Japan as they deal with an increase in cases of infection as people start to move around and weather gets colder
- Pray for the government of Prime Minister Suga as it tries to balance economic stability with the well-being of the people and anti-COVID precautions
- Pray for all dioceses of the NSKK as they move on from their diocesan synods recently held and look for inspiration in our Lord

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



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Dec	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#Dec for more information about each
Tue I	• 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 Aids Day
Wed 2	 Frances Perry, founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne († 1892) The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people 	• The Anglican Church of Melanesia The ACOM Board of Mission	• International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Thu 3	 Francis Xavier, priest and missionary († 1552) The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rick Lewers, 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 See p. 5 	• International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Fri 4	 Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, man of prayer († 1637) 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 See p. 5 	• International Day of Banks

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Sat 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. 5	 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development World Soil Day
Sun 6	 Advent 2 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 See p. 6 	
Mon 7	 Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher († 397) The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	 The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East The Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk See p. 7 	• International Civil Aviation Day
Tue 8	 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Richard Baxter, pastor and spiritual writer († 1691) The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people 	 The Philippine Independent Church – (Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI) 	

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Wed 9	• The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, 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 See p. 4 	 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime International Anti- Corruption Day
Thu I0	 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 See p. 4 	• Human Rights Day
Fri I I	 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. 8 	• International Mountain Day
Sat 12	• The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people	 The Anglican Church of Japan (Nippon Sei Ko Kai 日本聖公会) See p. 8 	 International Day of Neutrality International Universal Health Coverage Day

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Sun I3	 Advent 3 Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people 	• The Anglican Church of Korea	
Mon I 4	 John of the Cross, mystic and teacher († 1591) Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	• The Church of Bangladesh	
Tue I5	• The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier, the regional bishops, clergy and people	The Church of Ceylon	
Wed 16	• The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart, the regional bishops, clergy and people	• The Church of North India	
Thu I7	 The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people 	• The Church of Pakistan	
Fri 18	• The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people	• The Church of South India	International Migrants DayArabic Language Day

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Sat 19	• The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, 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 	
Sun 20	 Advent 4 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, SUDRA	• International Human Solidarity Day
Mon 21	 Thomas, apostle and martyr The Diocese of Rockhampton The Very Rev Peter Grice (Bishop-Elect), the clergy and people 	• The Episcopal Church of Sudan	
Tue 22	• The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Glenn Davies, the regional bishops, clergy and people	• Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)	
Wed 23	• The Diocese of Tasmania –Bishop Richard Conde, the Assistant Bishop, clergy and people	• The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)	

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Thu 24	• The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people	• USPG (UK and Ireland)	
Fri 25	 The Birth of our Lord The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people 	• Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy	
Sat 26	 Stephen, deacon and martyr The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	 Anglican Discipleship – Jesus- Shaped Life 	
Sun 27	 John the Evangelist or Christmas I The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa	
Mon 28	 Holy Innocents' Day Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	• The Mothers' Union	

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Tue 29	 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr († 1170) Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 		
Wed 30	 Josephine Butler, social reformer († 1905) Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 		
Thu 3 I	 John Whyclif, teacher and reformer († 1384) Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 		

Omissions and displacements in December this year -

6 December: Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist († ca. 342)

13 December: Lucy, martyr and virgin († 304)

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 2,107,506 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of South Africa (775,502), Morocco (336,506), Egypt (114,107), Ethiopia (107,109) and Tunisia (91,307).

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 25,896,563 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of the United States (12,777,754), Brazil (6,166,606), Argentina (1,390,375), Colombia (1,270,991) and Mexico (1,070,487).

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 15,336,348 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of India (9,266,705), Iran (894,385), Iraq (542,187), Indonesia (511,836) and Bangladesh (454,146).

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 17,135,241 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of Russia (2,187,990), France (2,170,097), Spain (1,605,066), the United Kingdom (1,557,007) and Italy (1,480,874).

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 50,589 reported cases of Covid-19. We remember especially the people of our own country (27,854), French Polynesia (13,517), Guam (6,705), New Zealand (1,684) and Papua New Guinea (630).

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

* Figures from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 26 November 2020. The countries named for each region are the five reporting the most cases.