

# Partners Praying Together

September 2019



## EACH DAY THIS MONTH

✦ *ABM Prayer Theme:* Give thanks for the work and witness of the ECP, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. This month ABM is privileged to host three visitors to Australia who come from the ECP – the Rt Rev Brent Alawas (Bishop of the Diocese of the Northern Philippines), the Rt Rev Nestor Poltic (Bishop of the Diocese of North Central Philippines) and Atty Floyd Lalwet who serves the ECP as the Provincial Secretary and Chancellor, and as National Development Officer of the E-CARE Foundation. During their visit they will spend time in Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney. Pray for travelling mercies for our visitors and that their visit will be a successful one.

## Sunday 1 September – Pentecost 12

[Ordinary Sunday 22]

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Pray that the *Statement from the Heart*, which came out of the 2017 National Constitutional Convention at Uluru, will lead more and more people on the journey towards reconciliation in Australia. May we listen to the statement sincerely with receptive hearts and minds, being open to transformation and change.
- ✦ *Australian Cycle of Prayer (ACP):* The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Philip Freier; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee

## Monday 2 September – The Martyrs of New Guinea († 1942)

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea, for the College Council, for its Acting Principal (Bishop Jeff Driver), its Deputy Principal (Fr Giles Motisi), and for all other staff, students and their families. The college exists to train future generations of leaders for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, carrying on the legacy of the New Guinea Martyrs. Remember particularly the final year students as they prepare this year for ordination and to serve the Church throughout the country.
- ✦ *ACP:* The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people

**Tuesday 3 September – Gregory of Rome, bishop and teacher († 604);  
Eliza Darling, pioneer and social reformer in NSW († 1868)**

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for all the overseas dioceses who have companion links with dioceses in Australia. May the relationships bring life to all those involved in reaching out across the Anglican Communion. Today we remember especially – Aipo Rongo (PNG) and Ballarat; the Arctic (Canada) and North Queensland; Bor (South Sudan) and Adelaide; Eldoret (Kenya) and Perth
- ✦ *ACP:* The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rick Lewers, the clergy and people

**Wednesday 4 September**

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the work of Walkabout Ministries, led by the Rev Gloria Shipp, the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained in the Anglican Church of Australia. Walkabout Ministries' innovative work includes chaplaincy at the Orana Juvenile Justice Centre in Dubbo, women's camps, men's camps (led by Gloria's husband, Eddie), an Elders' outreach group and a Reconciliation lunch. Pray too for Gloria in her role as the Chairperson of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.
- ✦ *ACP:* The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people

**Thursday 5 September**

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for charitable people, especially those who donate to ABM. It is through your support, in terms of money, time and encouragement, that organisations like ABM can address social justice issues such as poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, unequal access to water and sanitation, and vulnerability to disasters.
- ✦ *ACP:* The Diocese of Bathurst – The Ven Brett Watterson (Diocesan Administrator), the clergy and people
- ✦ *UN:* International Day of Charity

**Friday 6 September**

- ✦ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the work of MU throughout the world, remembering especially the work undertaken in the Solomon Islands by MU under the Positive Parenting program. The program is aimed at equipping fathers, mothers and other carers with enhanced skills for raising healthy, happy children. In the process, it also helps participants to understand their own parenting style, and family relationships more broadly. Men have found the course particularly helpful and many have begun to see fatherhood as something much broader and richer than simply meting out punishments.
- ✦ *ACP:* The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people

## Saturday 7 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the work going on in Kayin State, Myanmar, overseen by the Diocese of Hpa-An. The project provides agricultural and farming skills to 155 families who have been ‘internally displaced’ (living as refugees within their own country). Although farming is their main source of income, these families do not own land, and also lack strong knowledge about agriculture. The project’s longer-term goal is to help people to lift themselves out of poverty and improve their quality of life. With increased incomes from sustainable farming, farmers are more assured of meeting their basic needs, such as sending their children to school, paying health care costs, and providing themselves with reasonable shelter.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, the regional bishops, clergy and people

## Sunday 8 September – Pentecost 13

[Ordinary Sunday 23]

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the work of ABM’s partners in PNG and Vanuatu. Since July 2017, they have provided literacy classes for more than 2,000 disadvantaged people. Some learners were able to progress to formal education courses and formal employment, while others gained confidence to progress their own business, discuss their children’s homework or participate more fully in community events.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people
- ✠ *UN*: International Literacy Day

## Monday 9 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the work of the religious communities working within ABM’s overseas partners, among them: the Community of Nazareth (Japan), the Community of St Francis (Korea), the Community of St Mary (the Philippines), and the Community of the Good Shepherd (Malaysia).
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, the clergy and people

## Tuesday 10 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for all those who become companions and supporters of missionary agencies such as ABM, who help us and our partners to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ who came that people ‘may have life, and have it abundantly’ (Jn 10.10b).
- ✠ *ACP*: Ministry to the forces – Bishop Ian Lambert, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces
- ✠ *UN*: World Suicide Prevention Day

## Wednesday 11 September – Mother Esther CHN, Founder of the Community of the Holy Name, Melbourne († 1931)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the General Community Development Fund, and for those who support it. The fund allows ABM to continue to measure and evaluate our effectiveness in the aid projects we deliver, enabling us to learn from and improve the work we do. It means we can support the Anglican Communion to amplify the voices of smaller churches around the world, especially in the Pacific region, in advocacy on climate change, prevention of violence against women, and ending human trafficking and slavery. It allows us to support the ecumenical work of the Church Agencies Network which works to prevent, mitigate or effectively respond to disasters in our region, and to support the ecumenical work of Action by Churches Together in responding to disasters across the world.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people

## Thursday 12 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for Gawura, the ‘school within a school’ at St Andrew’s Cathedral School in Sydney. Founded in 2007, Gawura is a unique, coeducational Kindergarten to Year-6 day school for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who live at home with their families or carers. As students ‘graduate’ from the Gawura primary program, they are offered scholarships at the Cathedral School for their secondary education. Gawura is a highly-acclaimed, well-regarded ‘lighthouse’ model for Indigenous education
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people
- ✠ *UN*: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

## Friday 13 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change project in the Solomon Islands. This year ABM will use funding to support the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) to work with selected communities which are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disasters, including local Anglican secondary school, Selwyn College. At Selwyn, ACOM will improve drainage around the school, which is located in a narrow low-lying strip between the sea and hillsides. Improved drainage will reduce the impact of flash flooding during heavy rains. In addition, ACOM will work with selected vulnerable coastal communities to demonstrate and train women in doing Backyard Gardening which increases crop yields and thus reduces vulnerability to climate change. To do this ACOM will be supported by technical expertise from local organisation, Kastom Gaden. The women will also receive training in nutrition. These ‘lead gardeners’ will then train others in their communities.
- ✠ *ACP*: Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people

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Please trim used stamps with a 1 cm border around them.

Stamp collections are also gratefully received.

Please send your stamps to –

ABM, Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building,  
New South Wales 1230, Australia



### Saturday 14 September – Holy Cross Day

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for ABM's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mission Grants. The purpose of them is to support mission activities that benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ABM affirms the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly recognising the importance of culture and self-determination. Priority is given to projects which are initiated and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Grant applications which meet the funding guidelines are appraised and prioritised by NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.
- ✠ *ACP:* Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people

### Sunday 15 September – Pentecost 14

[Ordinary Sunday 24]

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for ABM's networking partner, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF, Anglican Church of Canada). PWRDF has been connecting Anglicans in Canada to people in need in Canada and around the world since 1958. As an instrument of faith, PWRDF connects Anglicans in Canada to communities around the world in dynamic partnerships to advance sustainable development, to respond to emergencies, to assist refugees, and to act for positive change.
- ✠ *ACP:* The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier, the regional bishops, clergy and people
- ✠ *UN:* International Day of Democracy

For more information, visit  
[www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org)

## Monday 16 September – Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary († ca. 432)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns. The college supports the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders through study programs leading to awards in theology, suicide prevention, addictions management and community development. Pray for the Rev Victor Joseph, the college's Principal, and for the staff and students.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart, the regional bishops, clergy and people
- ✠ *UN*: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

## Tuesday 17 September – Hildegard of Bingen, abbess and spiritual writer († 1179)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the National Council of Churches in Australia, remembering especially its President, Bishop Phillip Huggins. Give thanks, too, for the state- and territory-based ecumenical organisations in Australia (Council of Churches in Western Australia, NSW Ecumenical Council, Northern Territory Council of Churches, Queensland Churches Together, Tasmanian Council of Churches, South Australian Council of Churches, Victorian Council of Churches). May we all be one so that the world may believe.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people

## Wednesday 18 September – John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia († 1856)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the Gender and Governance project which is helping to end the practice of child marriage in Zambia. The land-locked Central African nation has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with 6% of girls married by the time they have turned 15 and 31% by the age of 18. This is in spite of 21 being the legal age for marriage. Girls are 10 times more likely to marry before the age of 18 as boys. Child marriage usually means an end to a girl's education and her hopes for a better life. It can impact on her health, and many child brides experience domestic violence. Child marriage is often a result of poverty, as it relieves parents of daughters from the financial burden of feeding and educating them into young adulthood.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people

## Thursday 19 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for ABM's assets-based community development (ABCD) work with two Anglican Church partners in the Philippines: the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and IFI-VIMROD, a development arm of the Philippine Independent Church (the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*). With both partners, ABM is working to help reduce poverty in rural areas in the Philippines through building up the strengths of communities, leading to economic empowerment of families.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, the clergy and people

## Friday 20 September – John Coleridge Patteson, first Bishop of Melanesia, martyr († 1871)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for all evangelists who bring Jesus to birth in our own generation and spread his Good News to others. Remember especially Kerina Evangelists' College at Tsendiap in Papua New Guinea, and St Peter's Bible School at Toungoo in Myanmar.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people

## Saturday 21 September – Matthew, evangelist and martyr

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for ABM partners' work in Kenya, Myanmar and Vanuatu to provide water infrastructure in disadvantaged communities. Give thanks, too for the education about hygiene and sanitation that ABM partners teach communities.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop David Robinson, the clergy and people
- ✠ *UN*: International Day of Peace

## Sunday 22 September – Pentecost 15

[Ordinary Sunday 25]

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for all those who send stamps and stamp collections to ABM. Each year ABM is able to raise funds for mission which come from the sale of used stamps that are donated to us. Give thanks for all the volunteers who help us to trim and sort them so that they are ready to be sold on to philatelic dealers.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Glenn Davies, the regional bishops, clergy and people

**For access to the electronic version of *Partners Praying Together*, go to [www.abmission.org/partners-praying-together](http://www.abmission.org/partners-praying-together)**

## Monday 23 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the work of the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. As a part of its work, the hospital has a nutrition program which helps children under the age of three to thrive. Many families in Gaza struggle to afford nutritious food and children can suffer as a consequence. ABM helps to fund this important work.
- ✠ *ACP:* The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, the Assistant Bishop, clergy and people
- ✠ *UN:* International Day of Sign Languages

## Tuesday 24 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the Youth Engagement Project which has been set up in the Diocese of the Northern Territory to fund Church initiatives which engage young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Community leaders expressed a desire to try to break some of the destructive cycles they were observing, by engaging their young people more in the church. Culturally relevant resources have been produced for these communities to use in their existing programs and church services with good results. Pray that the project can be rolled out to more communities.
- ✠ *ACP:* The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people

## Wednesday 25 September – Sergius of Moscow, abbot and teacher († 1392)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the work of the Mission Department of the Anglican Communion Office in London, remembering especially its director, the Rev Canon John Kafwanka. Pray for all involved in the work of intentional discipleship throughout the Anglican Communion.
- ✠ *ACP:* The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people

## Thursday 26 September – Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester († 1626)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day:* Give thanks for the work of the Liturgy Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia, remembering especially its chair, Bishop Garry Weatherill (Ballarat) and its secretary, the Rev Dr Elizabeth Smith (Perth). Give thanks for the liturgies offered to God by our congregations and their clergy day by day, week by week.
- ✠ *ACP:* The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop John Parkes, the clergy and people
- ✠ *UN:* International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; World Maritime Day



## Friday 27 September – Vincent de Paul, priest and worker with the poor († 1660)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, for Provincial Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, and for the work of the South Sudan Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA). We especially thank the Lord for SSUDRA's recent work in providing much needed relief to displaced families in Bentiu, who have suffered the double catastrophe of famine and armed conflict. Please join us in praying for an end to conflict in South Sudan, for good governance, and for the success of all peacemakers.
- ✠ *ACP*: The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people
- ✠ *UN*: World Tourism Day

## Saturday 28 September

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for St John's Seminary, in Kitwe, Zambia, its staff and students. The seminary is the national ordination training college of the Anglican Church in Zambia, training students from all five Anglican dioceses in the country. Their training prepares them to minister in fast-growing urban and rural congregations of the Church. The college, which receives a small monthly grant from the National Church, does not charge tuition fees, in order to enable students from poor dioceses to attend. However, this operating grant is not enough to cover the seminary's expenses. May Christ's holy Name be glorified by the Church in Zambia.
- ✠ *ACP*: Anglicare Australia – Chair: Bishop Chris Jones, Executive Director: Kasy Chambers
- ✠ *UN*: International Day for Universal Access to Information; World Rabies Day

## Sunday 29 September – St Michael and All Angels

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the *Agents of Change* program run by the Anglican Alliance. The distance-learning program gives students the skills and knowledge to facilitate development activities in their local communities. ABM supports the Anglican Alliance which has been rolling out its *Agents of Change* course in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- ✠ *ACP*: Theological Colleges and Church Schools
- ✠ *UN*: International Day against Nuclear Tests

### Omissions and displacements in September this year

- 8 The Birth of Mary, Mother of our Lord
- 15 John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother († 1947)

## Monday 30 September – Jerome, priest and biblical scholar († 420)

- ✠ *ABM Prayer for the Day*: Give thanks for the work of Nungalinga College in Darwin, remembering especially the great work being done to help students bridge the language gap between their own tongues and English. Give thanks for the college's new Diploma of Translating which now sits alongside their other certificates such as the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology.
- ✠ *ACP*: Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia
- ✠ *UN*: International Translation Day

# Find Out More ~

**ABM's current Project Book can be seen at [abmission.org/projectbook](https://abmission.org/projectbook)**

Daily	<a href="https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/member-churches/member-church.aspx?church=philippines">https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/member-churches/member-church.aspx?church=philippines</a>	
Day	ABM prayer points	Australian Cycle of Prayer
<b>1</b>	<a href="https://abmission.org/data/Education/2018/A_Voice_in_the_Wilderness.pdf">abmission.org/data/Education/2018/A_Voice_in_the_Wilderness.pdf</a>	<a href="https://anglican.org.au">anglican.org.au</a> + <a href="https://anglicanprimate.org.au">anglicanprimate.org.au</a>
<b>2</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 31-32 + <a href="https://abmission.org/data/PNG/2019/NTC_Ordinands_poster_-_updated.pdf">abmission.org/data/PNG/2019/NTC_Ordinands_poster_-_updated.pdf</a>	<a href="https://adelaideanglicans.com">adelaideanglicans.com</a>
<b>3</b>	<a href="https://abmission.org/PartnershipsGuidelines">abmission.org/PartnershipsGuidelines</a>	<a href="https://armidaleanglicandiocese.com">armidaleanglicandiocese.com</a>
<b>4</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , p 6	<a href="https://ballaratanglican.org.au">ballaratanglican.org.au</a>
<b>5</b>	<a href="https://abmission.org/pages/leave-a-bequest.html">abmission.org/pages/leave-a-bequest.html</a>	<a href="https://bathurstanglican.org.au">bathurstanglican.org.au</a>
<b>6</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 37-38	<a href="https://bendigoanglican.org.au">bendigoanglican.org.au</a>
<b>7</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 25-26	<a href="https://anglicanchurchsq.org.au">anglicanchurchsq.org.au</a>
<b>8</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 29-30, 43-44	<a href="https://bunburyanglican.org">bunburyanglican.org</a>
<b>9</b>	<a href="https://anglicansonline.org/resources/orders.html">anglicansonline.org/resources/orders.html</a>	<a href="https://anglicancg.org.au">anglicancg.org.au</a>
<b>10</b>	<a href="https://abmission.org/pages/-abms-five-marks-of-mission-56.html">abmission.org/pages/-abms-five-marks-of-mission-56.html</a>	<a href="https://defenceanglicans.org.au">defenceanglicans.org.au</a>
<b>11</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , p 19	<a href="https://gippsanglican.org.au">gippsanglican.org.au</a>
<b>12</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , p 8	<a href="https://graftondiocese.org.au">graftondiocese.org.au</a>
<b>13</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 35-36	<a href="https://anglican.org.au/indigenous-ministry">anglican.org.au/indigenous-ministry</a>
<b>14</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 13-14	<a href="https://natsiac.com">natsiac.com</a>
<b>15</b>	<a href="https://pwrdf.org">pwrdf.org</a>	<a href="https://melbourneanglican.org.au">melbourneanglican.org.au</a>
<b>16</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 3-4	<a href="https://newcastleanglican.org.au">newcastleanglican.org.au</a>
<b>17</b>	<a href="https://ncca.org.au">ncca.org.au</a>	<a href="https://anglicannq.org">anglicannq.org</a>
<b>18</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 45-46	<a href="https://anglicandnwa.org">anglicandnwa.org</a>
<b>19</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 33-34	<a href="https://perth.anglican.org">perth.anglican.org</a>
<b>20</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/Goonhtoaungsteven">facebook.com/Goonhtoaungsteven</a>	<a href="https://anglicanriverina.com">anglicanriverina.com</a>
<b>21</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 23, 27-28, 41-42	<a href="https://anglicanchurchcq.org.au">anglicanchurchcq.org.au</a>
<b>22</b>	<a href="https://abmission.org/pages/collect-stamps.html">abmission.org/pages/collect-stamps.html</a>	<a href="https://sydneyanglicans.net">sydneyanglicans.net</a>
<b>23</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 17-18	<a href="https://anglicantas.org.au">anglicantas.org.au</a>
<b>24</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , p 7	<a href="https://murray.anglican.org">murray.anglican.org</a>
<b>25</b>	<a href="https://anglicancommunion.org/mission.aspx">anglicancommunion.org/mission.aspx</a>	<a href="https://ntanglican.org.au">ntanglican.org.au</a>
<b>26</b>	<a href="https://anglican.org.au/our-work/liturgy-worship">anglican.org.au/our-work/liturgy-worship</a>	<a href="https://wangeratta-anglican.org.au">wangeratta-anglican.org.au</a>
<b>27</b>	<a href="https://churchofsouthsudan.org">churchofsouthsudan.org</a>	<a href="https://diowillochra.org.au">diowillochra.org.au</a>
<b>28</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 47-48	<a href="https://anglicare.asn.au">anglicare.asn.au</a>
<b>29</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , pp 29-40	<a href="https://anglican.org.au/theological-education">anglican.org.au/theological-education</a> + <a href="https://anglican.org.au/anglican-schools">anglican.org.au/anglican-schools</a>
<b>30</b>	<i>Project Book</i> , p 5	<a href="https://abmission.org">abmission.org</a>

# *Partner Profile*

## **The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)**

The Philippines were 'discovered' in 1521 by the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew and the archipelago became a colony named after the explorers' financier, Philip II, the King of Spain. In 1898 the Spanish ceded the islands to the Americans following the Spanish-American War. The beginning of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines was a worship service in Manila in 1898 for Americans and other English-speaking people conducted by an Episcopal Church chaplain in the US Armed Forces. A mission to Chinese migrants in Manila was started and the Bishop of Shanghai was appointed to oversee the church work in the Philippines. In 1901 the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the USA admitted the church as the Mission District of the Philippine Islands and elected its first bishop. In 1937 the church was allowed to use the name Philippine Episcopal Church. In 1990 it was inaugurated as an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion with the name, The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP).

At the time of the formation of the ECP most of the country's inhabitants were Roman Catholic with the exception of the Muslims in the south and Indigenous tribespeople in the mountains. The policy of the first bishop of the ECP was 'no altar over against another altar and no planting of churches over against another church'. Thus the ECP started and formed its membership and congregations by the conversion of non-Christian inhabitants, i.e. the Chinese migrants in Manila and the tribal and indigenous peoples. The isolated mountain tribes were self-sustaining communities with no infrastructures for education, health, transport and communication. The Episcopal Church built churches for their souls, schools for their education and hospitals and clinics for their health. It also facilitated the building of roads. This evangelism policy of the ECP explains why most of the members of the church are from the indigenous people in the south and north of the country.

According to its mission statement, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines exists to proclaim with integrity the fulfilling of God's mission in the world by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God: baptizing, teaching and nurturing new believers; responding to human needs by loving service; and seeking to transform unjust structures of society – the Five Marks of Mission of the global Anglican Communion.