

# Partners Praying Together

**August 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 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?

**T**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 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 and EpiscoCare in the Diocese of Egypt*)
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*
12. The Anglican Church of Japan, the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*
13. The Anglican Church of Korea, the *Daehan Song Gong Hoe* (*TOPIK – the Towards Peace in Korea Initiative of 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 Anglican Church of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui**

- ✦ Pray that the people of Hong Kong may have calm and courage as we battle the third wave of COVID-19.
- ✦ Pray that all those who have been infected will see the healing of God. Pray for the families and friends of the victims and those who were sent away to be in quarantine. Give them peace and the presence of Christ.
- ✦ We remember all those whose livelihoods have been adversely affected due to the pandemic; shops, restaurants, manufacturers and those in aviation, hotel and tourism industries. May the community come together to help all those in needs.
- ✦ We pray that the church may witness Christ faithfully using creative means when all public worship services and activities are suspended.
- ✦ Pray that through this pandemic, our faith and hope in Christ can be strengthened and we will discover new ways to bring the Gospel to others.

**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)**

## YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

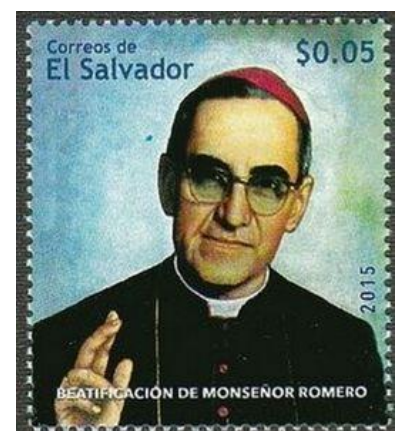
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Postage stamps featuring martyrs of the Twentieth Century. From top, left to right, Maximilian Kolbe, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Jr, Sophie and Hans Scholl, Edith Stein (St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), Élise Rivet (Mère Marie Élisabeth de l'Eucharistie), Princess Elisabeth of Hesse and by Rhine (later Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna of Russia), and Archbishop Óscar Romero.

<b>August</b>	<b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>	<b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>	<b>UN Days</b>
<b>Sat 1</b>	<p>Holy men and women of the Old Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Kenya <i>ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Sun 2</b>	<p><b>Pentecost 9 [Ordinary Sunday 18]</b> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Melanesia <i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Mon 3</b>	<p><b>Stephen, deacon and martyr</b> <i>– if not observed on 26 December</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rick Lewers, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<p>The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i></p>	
<b>Tue 4</b>	<p><b>Jean-Baptiste Vianney, priest of Ars, France († 1895)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of the Province of Central Africa <i>The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Wed 5</b>	<p><b>Oswald, king and martyr († 642)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of the Province of Myanmar <i>CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</i></li> </ul>	

<b>August</b>	<b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>	<b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>	<b>UN Days</b>
<b>Thu 6</b>	<b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Episcopal Church in the Philippines <i>E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Fri 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, the regional bishops, clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East <i>The Diocese of Jerusalem’s Development Desk and EpiscoCare in the Diocese of Egypt</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Sat 8</b>	<b>Dominic, priest and friar († 1221)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Philippine Independent Church – (Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI)</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>Pentecost 10 [Ordinary Sunday 19]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>
<b>Mon 10</b>	<b>Laurence, deacon and martyr at Rome († 258)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia <i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i></li> </ul>	

<b>August</b>	<b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>	<b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>	<b>UN Days</b>
<b>Tue 11</b>	Clare of Assisi († 1252) John Henry Newman, cardinal and theologian († 1890) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui)</li> </ul> See p. 4	
<b>Wed 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Japan (Nippon Sei Ko Kai)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Youth Day</li> </ul>
<b>Thu 13</b>	Jeremy Taylor, bishop and spiritual writer († 1667) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Korea, (Daehan Song Gong Hoe) <i>TOPIK – the Towards Peace in Korea Initiative of the Anglican Church of Korea</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Fri 14</b>	Twentieth-century martyrs, including: Maximilien Kolbe, friar († 1940), Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian († 1945), Maria Skobtsova, abbess in Paris († 1945), Martin Luther King, Jr, worker for civil liberties († 1968), Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda († 1977), and Óscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador († 1980) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of Bangladesh</li> </ul>	



<b>August</b>	<b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>	<b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>	<b>UN Days</b>
<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier, the regional bishops, clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of Ceylon</li> </ul>	
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>Pentecost II [Ordinary Sunday 20]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart, the regional bishops, clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of North India</li> </ul>	
<b>Mon 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of Pakistan</li> </ul>	
<b>Tue 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Church of South India</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Humanitarian Day</li> </ul>
<b>Thu 20</b>	<b>Bernard of Clairvaux, abbot and teacher († 1153)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i></li> </ul>	

<b>August</b>	<b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>	<b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>	<b>UN Days</b>
<b>Fri 21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Rockhampton – The Very Rev Peter Grice (Bishop-Elect), the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Episcopal Church of Sudan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism</li> </ul>
<b>Sat 22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Glenn Davies, the regional bishops, clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief</li> </ul>
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>Pentecost 12 [Ordinary Sunday 21]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, the Assistant Bishop, clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition</li> </ul>
<b>Mon 24</b>	<b>Bartholomew, apostle and martyr</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USPG (UK and Ireland)</li> </ul>	
<b>Tue 25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed 26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life</li> </ul>	

August	Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days
<b>Thu 27</b>	Monica, mother of Augustine († 387) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa</li> </ul>	
<b>Fri 28</b>	Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher († 430) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mothers' Union</li> </ul>	
<b>Sat 29</b>	The beheading of John the Baptist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> <li>The work and witness of St John the Baptist's Cathedral, Murray Bridge</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day against Nuclear Tests</li> </ul>
<b>Sun 30</b>	<b>Pentecost 13 [Ordinary Sunday 22]</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Refugees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances</li> </ul>

August	Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days
<b>Mon 31</b>	Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary († 651) John Bunyan, preacher and spiritual writer († 1688) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> </ul>		

**Omissions and displacements in August this year –**

9 August: Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union († 1921)

# *Let our prayer come before you as incense ...*

Almighty God, we call out to you as the world continues to suffer under the weight of the coronavirus pandemic. O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come to you.

That you would support and sustain the infected. Heal them and help them. Enliven their spirits and give strength to their bodies. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would support vulnerable populations. Defend the elderly and those who live with chronic conditions and diseases. Shield the poor, especially where public health systems are expensive or ineffective. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would confront the shameless who think that physical distancing rules don't apply to them, and the greedy who stockpile toilet paper, face masks and medications, with their imprudence and folly. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would motivate the young and the strong with the desire to help others who are not so fortunate. May they assist, all the while being necessarily cautious. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would shepherd and direct all who are part of governments – local, regional and national – around the world. May they equitably allocate resources for combatting the pandemic. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would enlighten the scientific and medical communities as they seek to find effective vaccines and treatments and as they educate the rest of us about the disease. Give them wisdom, as well as the skill to make their voices heard. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would guide the media, helping them to broadcast up-to-date and correct information in a way that is easy to understand and that does not cause panic. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would give us the desire to stay well informed. May we find relevant local reports which endow us to be good neighbours. Free us from fear, and support us to apply the recommended approaches in our lives, even at a cost to ourselves. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would help all who suffer mental stress at this time, those who feel lonely, fretful, vulnerable or hopeless. Give them what they need. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**

That you would aid all who have lost their jobs or whose jobs are precarious, and those whose businesses are dead or dying. Pity them, and send your Spirit of consolation in their hour of need. O Lord, hear our prayer **and let our cry come to you.**