

Partners Praying Together



April 2021 – Covid-19 Special Edition

BECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGES brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe much of ABM's normal project work has been disrupted. Because of that, we have asked our Overseas Partners to supply us with prayer points that reflect the situation in their country. Included in this edition of *Partners Praying Together* are the prayer points that we have received. We have included these so that you can show prayerful concern for them as they, who like us are 'wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world' (as the prayer from Compline puts it), adjust to living in a time of global pandemic. You'll also find the usual things we would normally have: the feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, and commemorations from the United Nations calendar. All the material is designed to inform your prayers for our Overseas Partners, the bishops and dioceses of our Church and for wider global concerns. With the Psalmist let us pray, 'Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, Lord, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice' (141.2).

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

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Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?

THIS MONTH WE ARE ASKING YOU not only to remember our each of our Australian dioceses as they grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic, but also each of our Overseas Partners as they deal with it too. Our Overseas Partners consist of Activity Partners (with whom we currently have joint activities), Relational Partners (with whom we have historical relationships) and Networking Partners (with whom we work overseas, or with whom we share information). We have, as the well-used Anglican phrase describes it, strong *bonds of affection* for all of them. Because our overseas work involves both the Church, through our Church-to-Church Unit, and communities, through our Anglicans in Development Unit, we often relate to our partners both through the Church itself and through a particular Church's community development arm. So, as you pray, we ask you to remember each of our Partners (and their community development arms) some of whom are more able to weather through the coronavirus storm than others:

Activity Partners

1. The Anglican Church of Kenya (*ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services*)
2. The Anglican Church of Melanesia (*The Anglican Church of Melanesia's Board of Mission*)
3. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (*Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*)
4. The Church of the Province of Central Africa (*the Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program*)
5. The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) (*the CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks*)
6. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (*E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP*)
7. The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East (*the Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk*)
8. The Philippine Independent Church – *Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI* (*VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI*)

Relational Partners

9. The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China
10. The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (*Anglican Missions Board, AMB*)
11. The Anglican Church of Hong Kong, the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui* 香港聖公會
12. The Anglican Church of Japan, the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai* 日本聖公会
13. The Anglican Church of Korea
14. The Church of Bangladesh
15. The Church of Ceylon
16. The Church of North India
17. The Church of Pakistan

18. The Church of South India
19. The Church of the Province of South East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore)
20. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan (*the Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA*)
21. The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Networking Partners

22. Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)
23. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)
24. USPG (UK and Ireland)
25. Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy
26. Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life
27. CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa
28. The Mothers' Union

Please remember all our partners in your prayers. Whether they are in Port Moresby, London or Seoul, they need our prayers.

Information from our Partners regarding Covid-19 will be put up on our website as it comes to hand.

EACH DAY THIS MONTH

✠ *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

As a Chinese organization we –

- ❖ give thanks for the peace and joy in our heart in the past suffering year which was affected by the Covid-19, disasters and other sufferings.
- ❖ give thanks for the leading and helping of God to fulfill our ministry in different areas of the world
- ❖ give thanks for God strengthening our courage and confidence to overcome all the sufferings.
- ❖ give thanks for the development of the Covid-19 vaccines which gives us the possibility to overcome the disease.

In the new year, we look forward to the God's help, we –

- ❖ pray for a peaceful world. There are still many wars, disasters and disputes in the world. We pray that human beings can be more united in their common sufferings;
- ❖ pray for the people who suffered because of Covid-19.
- ❖ pray for the relieving of hunger of the world, because there are many countries facing the challenge of food shortages in 2021;
- ❖ pray for no more bushfires in Australia and other countries.
- ❖ pray for the Church to have power to fight against the destructive opinions of heresies.

“May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.”(Ps 20.5).

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- ✝ We give thanks for the availability of vaccines in Aotearoa New Zealand and pray for those deciding who should get a vaccine and when.
- ✝ We pray for health workers and for those being recruited to help roll out the vaccination programme.
- ✝ We pray for our Bishops who have been outlining past and current redress policies and processes before the Abuse in Care: Royal Commission of Inquiry.
- ✝ We pray for the growing number of people who are being shut-out of the housing market in this country. The cost of a house is prohibitive to many and the inability to own a house is becoming multi-generational and entrenched leading to growing social dislocation. Thank you for the way the Anglican Church is advocating for fairness and justice and for the practical examples where parishes are demonstrating love and empathy.
- ✝ We give thanks for parishes and individuals that have already responded so generously to the Anglican Missions' Lenten Appeal and we pray for those who will benefit from the funds raised (see Anglican Missions' [Lenten Appeal 2021](#))

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

- ✝ Pray for our young people in Zambia that they should not be used for violence as we go to the elections in August this year
- ✝ Pray for the Church in Central Africa as we face the difficulties of the pandemic. Especially the less privileged people.
- ✝ Join us in giving thanks to God for the unity of purpose the Churches have shown in Zambia in the fight of the pandemic.
- ✝ Pray for the peaceful elections in Zambia.
- ✝ Pray for the Church particularly in Malawi especially as they think of growing the Church in other areas.
- ✝ Pray for the mission work to the most vulnerable children in the area of education.

Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✝ Thank God for the rich variety of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, whose worshippers come from multiple ethnicities and nations.
- ✝ Thank God for the enduring witness of the Diocese of Iran, tiny in numbers, longing for a better future.

- ✦ Thank God for the historic inheritance of the Diocese of Jerusalem and its ecumenical solidarity with other great traditions of the faith.
- ✦ Pray for Archbishop Michael, Archbishop Suheil, and Bishop Hosam that they may be faithful to their calling in times of stress and distress.
- ✦ Pray for medical professional across this Province, who engage not only with the pandemic but also with those whose lives are upended by war and displacement.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✦ Pray for the Church at homes as the government has closed the worship services in the Churches.
- ✦ Pray for implementation of the peace agreement between the government and the warring parties.
- ✦ Many South Sudanese are returning home from refuge and they are in difficulty of restarting living. There is no shelter, no food, and no medication.
- ✦ Pray for schools to be reopen soon as many girls have become pregnant because young people have been staying at home for one year without schools because of the coronavirus.

香港聖公會

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

- ✦ Pray for the effective Vaccination scheme for citizens.
- ✦ Pray for the effective control of the pandemic, so normal daily lives could resume as soon as possible
- ✦ Pray for all online nurturing programmes in the season of Easter
- ✦ Pray for two deacons (Matthew Lee and Kenneth Lo) who are to be ordained to the Priesthood on Good Shepherd Sunday
- ✦ Pray for the newly-developed programme (Doctor of Education in Ministry) of Minghua Theological College

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

- ✦ Please pray for all affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake ten years ago, and remember those who lives today are still painful or difficult as a result of the triple-punch of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power station accident
- ✦ Give thanks for the lives of service of all members of the clergy who have retired this year; and ask for God's peace in their hearts as they begin a new stage in their life, in retirement
- ✦ Please pray for all starting new schools or work - especially in the midst of this pandemic - that they may find strength in our Lord Jesus (*the Japanese working/academic year starts in April*)
- ✦ Give thanks for the general decrease in COVID-19 cases throughout the country; for the continuing programme of vaccination and the care and dedication of all in the medical industry
- ✦ Please pray for the NSKK as it considers how to move forward as a province in very changing times; and ask for wisdom for the Primate Luke Muto, the Provincial General Secretary Jesse Yahagi and the NSKK's House of Bishops
- ✦ Give thanks for God's created world in all its beauty as buds appear, flowers bloom and the Sakura blossom synonymous with Japan warms the heart of the nation

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Apr	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Thu 1	Maundy Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Kenya <i>ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya’s Anglican Development Services</i> 	
Fri 2	† Good Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Melanesia <i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Autism Awareness Day International Delegate’s Day
Sat 3	Holy Saturday – Easter Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i> 	
Sun 4	Easter Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Central Africa <i>The Zambia Anglican Council’s Outreach Program</i> <p>See p. 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

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Mon 5	Easter Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Myanmar <i>CPM’s Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Conscience
Tue 6	Easter Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church in the Philippines <i>E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
Wed 7	Easter Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East <i>The Diocese of Jerusalem’s Development Desk</i> <p><i>See p. 5</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day
Thu 8	Easter Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippine Independent Church – (<i>Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI</i>) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i>) 	

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Fri 9	Easter Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short, the Assistant Bishop, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China <p>See p. 4</p>	
Sat 10	Easter Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia <i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i> <p>See p. 5</p>	
Sun 11	Second Sunday of Easter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (<i>Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui</i> 香港聖公會) <p>See p. 6</p>	
Mon 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Japan (<i>Nippon Sei Ko Kai</i> 日本聖公会) <p>See p. 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Human Space Flight

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Tue 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Korea 	
Wed 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Chagas Disease Day
Thu 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Fri 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of North India 	
Sat 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Pakistan 	
Sun 18	<p>Third Sunday of Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of South India 	

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Mon 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, the regional bishops, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	
Tue 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i> <p>See p. 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Language Day
Wed 21	<p>Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, teacher († 1109)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Creativity and Innovation Day
Thu 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – the regional bishops, clergy and people (<i>diocese vacant</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Girls in ICT Day International Mother Earth Day

Apr	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Fri 23	George, martyr († ca. 303) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, the Assistant Bishop, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book and Copyright Day English Language Day Spanish Language Day
Sat 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Immunization Week begins today International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
Sun 25	Third Sunday of Easter [Anzac Day] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Malaria Day
Mon 26	Mark, evangelist and martyr [transferred from 25 April] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day World Intellectual Property Day
Tue 27	George Herbert, parish priest, poet († 1633) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	

Apr	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Wed 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mothers' Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Safety and Health at Work
Thu 29	Catherine of Siena, spiritual teacher († 1380) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 		
Fri 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Jazz Day

Omissions and displacements in April this year –

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

6 April: Frederic Barker, Bishop of Sydney, pioneer of theological education and the General Synod († 1882)

8 April: Georgiana Molloy, pioneer church leader and botanist from Western Australia († 1843)

9 April: William Law, priest and teacher († 1761)

9 April: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian († 1945)

11 April: George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, missionary († 1878)

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 4,108,596 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (1,537,852), Morocco (491,709), Tunisia (245,923), Egypt (195,418) and Ethiopia (187,365).

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 54,659,860 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are United States (29,819,108), Brazil (12,047,526), Colombia (2,342,278), Argentina (2,245,717) and Mexico (2,197,160).

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 23,298,845 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (11,646,081), Iran (1,801,065), Indonesia (1,460,184), Israel (828,239) and Iraq (793,892).

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 41,506,917 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (4,466,153), the United Kingdom (4,296,583), France (4,282,603), Italy (3,376,376) and Spain (3,228,803).

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, 61,929 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (29,206), French Polynesia (18,576), Guam (7,784), Papua New Guinea (3,574) and New Zealand (2,106).

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

** Figures are the latest available from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 25 March 2021.*