

# Partners Praying Together

**May 2020 – Covid-19 Special Edition**



**B**ECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGES brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe much of ABM's normal project work has been disrupted. Because of that, we have asked our Overseas Partners to supply us with prayer points that reflect the situation in their country. Included in this edition of *Partners Praying Together* are the prayer points that we have received, along with stories from our Overseas Partners about how they celebrated Holy Week and Easter. 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).

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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 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 Melanesia**

- ✦ Our national leaders who are working very closely with all Churches in SI and Vanuatu towards the C19. Also our health workers and front-liners in our fight against the C19
- ✦ Our Bishops and Clergy as they continue to provide pastoral care and advices to all people in this very difficult time of fear, especially as a lot of Honiara residence are returning home because of fear.
- ✦ For all our people returning home, living in fear, all our school children whose schools have been closed down and for stronger faith to remain strong in God.
- ✦ For people directly affected by Cyclone Harold, especially in Vanuatu, which I have just heard that it destroyed a lot of Church properties, including the residence of the Bishop of Vanuatu.
- ✦ For families and relatives of 27 people washed overboard from a passenger boat from Honiara to Malaita by huge waves caused by Cyclone Harold on the night of 03rd April. Six bodies were recovered dead and the rest were never recovered.

## **The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East**

- ✦ Pray for the weakest, the most vulnerable, and the poorest in the many countries that this Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East covers and serves.
- ✦ Pray for clergy and their people who are grieving and disorientated by not being able to meet face to face as the Body of Christ.
- ✦ Pray for the four dioceses, all of them facing serious financial pressures resulting from interrupted worship and mission service.

- ✦ Pray for places where violence and conflict continue, even while the pandemic rages: especially for the Yemen, for Syria, for Iraq, for Somalia, for Palestine.
- ✦ Pray in thanksgiving for love deepened and faith broadened in these times of altered perspective.

## **The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia**

*From Tikanga Pasefika, the Church's Polynesian cultural strand*

- ✦ Those infected with COVID-19 in our Diocese of Polynesia area.....15 in Fiji, nil in Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa...we give thanks to God for His protection over our islands
- ✦ Those affected by COVID-19 in terms of job losses financial stress, especially those in our Tourism Industry - Tourism is one of the biggest economy in our Islands
- ✦ The Governments for their work and decisions made. Tonga and Samoa Governments declared national days of fasting and praying for the effects of the pandemic and God's protection over them
- ✦ The work of the Police Forces and Army, nurses and doctors and all essential workers in the pacific
- ✦ For the leadership of our churches, and the important roles of pastors at such a time as this - their pastoral responsibility to the congregations, especially the elderly who are more prone to this pandemic.

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

- ✦ Pray for all those who have been afflicted with COVID-19. (In Hong Kong, there are 970 confirmed cases)
- ✦ Pray for those who are caring for those afflicted, especially the medical personnel and paramedics who put their own lives at risk.
- ✦ Pray for those who have died of the virus. May they rest in peace. We also remember those who grieve of their passing.
- ✦ Pray for all those who have been placed under quarantine centers and those who are under self-quarantine at homes.
- ✦ Pray for all those businesses that are facing closure and bankruptcy due to the lockdown. Pray for the owners and workers in these challenging times.

# The Church of the Province of South-East Asia

- ✠ Give thanks to the Lord for all that the governments are putting in place, the preventative measures, medical treatment, economy stimulus and financial assistance, to help and protect the people of the nations.
- ✠ Seek God's mercy, confess the corporate sins of the Church (God's people) and the nations, that we have rejected His values, distorted Biblical truth, denied His Lordship, departed from His righteous way (justice and righteousness according to God's standard).
- ✠ Pray for national leaders and leadership of God's Church, for divine wisdom to continue making godly decisions and provide godly leadership over those under their charge. Remember especially our Archbishop and all Bishops in the Province.
- ✠ Pray against fear (Use Psalms 91, 23, 46 to pray).
- ✠ Pray for all those who are or will be affected by the ongoing spread of Covid-19 and pray for healing. Pray for those whose livelihood is adversely affected, and students whose schooling is interrupted.

**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)**

# *Holy Week & Easter*

**In a time of Global Pandemic**

## *Stories from our Overseas Partners*

### **The Anglican Church of Kenya**

Thanks so much for your mail and the message of togetherness. May the Lord have mercy on us.

This is a time that we need to pray together like never before. Jesus Christ himself had to go with his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with them. Even though the disciples could not pray but their presence meant a lot during that hour of prayer.

We are faced with circumstances more or less the same as those in Australia. More the same because of the interruption of the spiritual life of the church. Less the same because of the different health services and the availability.

As we celebrate this Holy Week, homes have been turned into prayer rooms / houses. Families are having worship services at home. The physical, link between Christians has been disrupted and people are trying to adapt to the service of family members. More messages are being passed through social media between the church members and their worship leaders. Some are having streamed services and sermons. In some parishes, like the cathedral church, are having daily programs where message and sermons are streamed either live or recorded to the Christians who receive them through Facebook, or You Tube.

For the rural parishes more is done in homes and the leaders pray in the church where they program that one person goes per day. In all these people try to follow the restrictions from the authorities as much as possible.

This kind of system/services has affected other church services like pastoral visits, because of social distancing, and offerings.

On the other hand, the Corona Virus pandemic has given a new meaning to family togetherness. The home worship has brought family members more closely and bonded. Talents and gifts are being exposed and exercised. Without this some talents might have not been exercised.

The Holy and Easter week has awoken the reality and importance of prayer in people's lives. The diocese has impressed upon the clergy to be in touch with the Christians at this time of the pandemic. Easter Sunday services were done online in our urban churches but rural churches were done at homes.

With the reality of social distancing, lockdown and the fear that comes with the fear of contracting the virus people seem to become more unsocial, not like before where one could welcome someone from a far town very enthusiastically. Remember this is a time when those who have been working or studying away from home could join their families to celebrate Easter together. This pandemic has brought a massive change to this family socialization.

May the Lord God bless you abundantly and protect you and your family as you strive to stay safe during this pandemic time.

*– The Ven Benjamin Biwott, Diocese of Eldoret, Diocesan Administrative Secretary*

## **The Anglican Church of Melanesia**

The Holy Week and Easter commemorations for 2020 are unlike those of the past years. While Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were then still amongst the very few countries in the world that have not had reported positive cases of the corona virus then, Vanuatu had already stopped large Church gatherings before Holy Week and Easter mostly because of reported cases of the virus in nearby New Caledonia. Most people in Vanuatu spent both Holy and Easter in family worship. The celebrations of both events in Vanuatu was further disrupted by Tropical Cyclone Harold that devastated some islands of the country just before Palm Sunday.

In the Solomon Islands, despite the threat of the virus and advice for social distancing, people still flooded Churches both in towns and in the rural areas to celebrate both the Good Friday and Easter. To many people, these two events are so important as far as their faith is concerned that they cannot be anywhere else apart from in Church. In addition, the vast majority, even in those towns, do not have access to the technology that could enable the on-line streaming of Church services. The fact that we have no reported cases of the virus gave people the confidence to attend Church even they will be part of a large congregation.

*– Dr Abraham Hauriasi, Provincial Secretary, ACOM*



## **The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea**

Greetings to you in Christ Name. I thank you your email that was send to me regarding the services in our church's holy days in this Pandemic.

We in the New Guinea Islands diocese have most parishes in the rural area along the South coast of New Britain island which Pandemic doesn't really affect them or becomes their concern so they celebrate the holy days as normal services. But we issued s reserve standard liturgical order for use at this period as it directed from the Archbishop's office. We in urban parishes have changed our services in the church to our Small Faith Communities (SFCs) by following the precautions measures set by the Government through the SoE (State of Emergency) authorities. All Christians remain in their SFCs and we priests visited them and conduct services. It brings the joy and blessings of the Holy days right to their door step all have experience. We continue to conduct services in that manner right up to the 60days SoE period.

Our Diocesan health and CPP team have gone out at end of March to conduct awareness throughout the Diocese. Now we are preparing to go out again for another awareness and observations. When we have done it I will report back to you.

Thanks and God bless.

*– Fr Wilson Makele, Vicar General, PNG Martyrs Kimbe Parish*

## **The Church of the Province of Central Africa in Zambia**

Easter greetings. COVID-19 still poses a challenge on how to reach out to parishioners and how the members have financially supported the parish. However, members have been reached out electronically via phone calls, SMS, face book, WhatsApp, and physical presence with sanitizer. Others have visited our home. Social distance has been maintained. Masks shall be considered, too. Offering: has dropped by 60%. Modes of collection is through section/ cell leaders and a few through the Treasurer's air tell mobile money account. Further challenges are: 1. Lack of adequate equipment such as camera, sound speakers, mixers to quality publicity in streaming our sermons. My regards.

*– Fr Christopher Koloko, Diocese of Lusaka*

## **The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East**

A Special Covid19 celebration of Holy Week

The wisdom of self-isolation in the midst of a pandemic has been recognised as a moral imperative in the past few weeks. Isolation policies began in Bahrain in the very early part of

March and as a congregation we wrestled with the prospect of closing worship. We carefully monitored government health advisories, which were not always clear, about public gatherings. But, in conversations with the government body that oversees non-Islamic charities (including churches) I conveyed our intention to continue public worship as long as mosques were open for prayer. For Muslims, forbidding communal prayer is a very serious consideration and in general we experienced deep understanding of the importance of maintaining the cycles of prayer in the cathedral in our conversations with government representatives.

Eventually though, as the news of the pandemic became more frightening, and more threatening, the decision to prohibit prayers in any groups of more than five was made and we closed the cathedral compound for our congregation - and the 40 guest congregations who also use various worship spaces on the cathedral compound for their gatherings. It became increasingly clear that the crisis would not 'go away' quickly, leading to some discussions about "online worship" as an option. It is fortunate that I have been using Zoom to communicate with my family scattered in different locations in the world so I proposed the Zoom platform as the best way to continue interactive worship (as opposed to what I would characterise as spectator worship). This allows our congregation to share in the liturgical responses, sing together along with the celebrant, and even visually greet each other during the sharing of the peace and chatter together online after the service.

Certainly, we continued to learn about the limits of the technology as we worshiped through the last part of Lent together. It didn't take long for the various regular weekly services to be established with separate repeatable links. The congregation was wonderfully helpful in making suggestions about adjusting the technology to work more practically for us all. The "tweaking" of how/where to place the computer within reach on the altar so the keyboard would remain accessible to manage the sharing of music and lyrics, muting noisy participants, and even experimenting with placement to deal with backlight coming through the magnificent stained-glass window behind the altar - all is resolved now and we are worshiping together well in our different places of isolation.

The challenge of Holy Week, with the limitation of how the screen would reflect processions, stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday, the ceremony of lighting the Easter Candle, and other considerations all figured into the planning for doing things differently. We asked people to get palms for themselves to hold up during the blessing prayer over the basket of palm crosses already prepared for Palm Sunday. The palms blessed in the service have been left on the church porch for people to pick up as they may pass by the church while doing their necessary errands. We opted to forego foot-washing and focus on the institution of the Eucharist as a different covenantal meal for a new covenant people for our Maundy Thursday celebration. The presentation of the veneration of the cross and procession on Good Friday proved to be a challenge but some mutual creativity made it all work well. Likewise, the lighting of the Easter Candle during the Vigil service... Many other aspects of our local traditions have had to be adjusted to "fit on the screen".

Through it all we have maintained our sense of community. The oddness of the situation means that we've also been able to invite family and friends in different time zones to join us in worship without conflicting with their worship in their own church communities. It has

turned out to be a very enriching way of linking our spiritual lives with our families in our home countries. It has also turned out to be very reassuring to be linked together in a completely new way, in a particular expression of ‘things as normal (that aren’t normal)’, encouraging our families that life and worship goes on here and everywhere, without respect to distance, isolation, and uncertainty.

I sincerely hope we will never experience another Holy Week / Easter celebration like this one, but at the same time, I am glad for the knowledge that one day we will all look back and wonder at the amazing things God did for us in our time of need.

*–The Ven Dr Bill Schwartz, OBE, Archdeacon in the Gulf*

## **Holy Week Services at St Paul’s Anglican Church, Ahmadi, Kuwait: 5-12 April 2020**

### **Background**

St Paul’s Anglican Church is located in the State of Kuwait and a lockdown due to COVID-19 was declared by the Government on 24 February 2020. In compliance with the Cabinet stipulations on prevention including banning of public gatherings, no services were conducted from 25 February to date. Our church is a centre for 20 other congregations which were all affected.

### **Services**

The Palm Sunday service was conducted via ZOOM and well subscribed with 30 participants. During Holy Week, church members received reflective resources including some from the Diocesan Retreats Facilitator, Maggie Le-Roy. The Maundy Thursday service was also conducted via ZOOM and the sermon included part of the thoughts shared by Archbishop Michael. On Good Friday the Liturgy of the Seven Last Words of Jesus and prayers of hope were major highlights. Participation by church members increased to 35. The Easter Sunday Sunrise service, traditionally held at the British Embassy Gardens, Kuwait City, was conducted via ZOOM at 6.30pm on Easter Day. Many people including our host, the British Ambassador, felt quite affected by this change. Some people were at home and others were at work. Attendance increased to 40 people. Though live streaming via ZOOM brings us together, there is a strong feeling that COVID-19 has affected the church, socially, spiritually and financially. Part of our church membership is living in an area are under total lockdown and cannot move beyond their residential zone. We reach out to one another via phone calls and social media including ZOOM. Despite these challenges, the mood among Christians is that of hope in Christ for a better tomorrow and the Easter Season this year is inspirational.

*– The Rev Michael Mbona, Rector and Chaplain, St Paul’s Anglican Church,  
Diocese of Cyprus and The Gulf*

# Anglican Church of Aotearoa, NZ and Polynesia

Many nice greetings from Auckland, NZ. Christ is risen, alleluia!

I am writing this reflection on Easter Wednesday, three weeks into Level 4 lockdown introduced by the Government of Aotearoa New Zealand to all of us living here.

The introduction itself was a fast-developing event. In two days, we have moved from level 2 to level 4, so the period of adjustment was like a whirlwind. Being one of the team members in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland, I was part of the team that set up the priorities for the period of lockdown. Two main priorities were: liturgical life of the worshipping community and pastoral support and connection of the community. Being confined to our homes, we have decided to be daily visibly present with our prayers online. In this way we wanted to assist our people to establish the prayer routine for our community, with Evening prayer on working days and Liturgy of the Word and Spiritual Communion on Sundays. In this period of lockdown, as our communities are deprived of receiving Holy Communion, we all share in solidarity in that deprivation from the sacraments of the Church. It is a real Eucharistic fast and desert, but equally it is a strong focus on the essence of our faith and that is that the presence of the risen Christ is constant in the church and world and that presence can be seen in different ways. Many have responded and found consolation in those services.

Nevertheless, for many, social media are not the most personal way of communication. So, in order to stay connected and in contact with all those who wish, and in order that we look after one another, we chose a very traditional way of being in touch – phone tree! Parishioners call parishioners, in order to remind each other that we are connected and not left to ourselves. And it is heart-warming and appreciated that the response to this initiative was so positive.

One of the discoveries during the lockdown is the fact that this period was not so boring and eventless, as one might think. Being in touch, chatting with colleagues, preparing the services, keeping the prayer life going...all these do take a huge part of the time during the day. There was also the Zoom evening of Abrahamic interfaith prayers organised by Jews, Christian and Muslims for all affected with this virus. The prayers and supplication of peoples of all three faith were same and united.

As much as possible, it is a real blessing to keep our activities as regular as usual, but I also personally have enough time to re-evaluate what are the priorities in my life and in my ministry.

Finally, as we are approaching the end of these four weeks, a new uncertainty sets in. What will time after bring? In which way are we going to live? What can be done and what can't? How long it will last? Finally, with economic consequences on life for many people across our society, many look into future that is filled with fear and uncertainty. It is my prayer and wish that Christ Risen who is among us, will give us all strength. Humanity has a great ability to work together and do well. Hope coming from our faith shows us that, in the

midst of our fragility, there is a power of God that leads us through those uncertainties. It is my prayer, that we will all rediscover our responsibility for one another, solidarity, and interconnectedness. No individual, no bubble, no place, no country can go through this by themselves. Together, with God's presence in our midst, we can do it.

I wish you all the best in your work and ministry!

– Fr Ivica Gregurec, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland NZ

## **Anglican Church of Japan** ***Nippon Sei Ko Kai***

The diocese of Kobe is in western Japan and includes the city of Hiroshima infamous for suffering the first ever atomic bombing. The diocese consists of around 30 churches and our Cathedral Church of St. Michael is located in the city of Kobe, at the eastern end of the diocese.

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, public worship at the cathedral was suspended from 8th March. And up to now, a total of 22 churches in the diocese have also suspended worship, one after another.

Currently the cathedral holds Eucharistic services daily at 7am with only clergy present, but that only goes as far as to include the sacrament of the Word and intercessions. There is no sharing of the bread and wine.

The last time I partook of Holy Communion was on 22nd March, while attending a service in a neighbouring diocese (restrictions in Japan currently vary from diocese to diocese).

Now, I graduated from theological seminary 32 years ago, and in all that time I have never experienced three weeks without receiving communion!

Last year I celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus together with about 300 people at our cathedral; but the same day this year found me worshipping with just four other clergy and four laity; and without hymns, bread or wine.

And the worst thing is that no one knows how long this situation will last. Nobody knows if it will be a month, six months, or a year.

Seeing the numbers of infected people increase every day on television, it seems all we can do is worry about what will happen in the future, while we pray for a quick solution.

In all that, words from this year's Easter Gospel were a great comfort. In Matthew chapter 28, Jesus said, "Don't be afraid."

The resurrected Lord told me, "If you're anxious about the future or fear of infection, don't be afraid."

And the words, "The sky and the earth won't last forever, but my words will" came to mind.

Even though we cannot receive the sacrament, we have the words of the Bible – the words of Jesus – as a great comfort in our lives.

We don't know how long this situation will last, but we do dearly look forward to worshipping together once again. Please pray for Japan and for the Anglican Church in Japan.

– *The Rt Rev Augustine Naoaki Kobayashi, Bishop of Kobe, Nippon Sei Ko Kai*

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## **YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION**

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**A postage stamp featuring the Voznesensky Sobor – the Cathedral of the Ascension – in Almaty, Kazakhstan**

| <b>May</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 1</b> | <b>SS Philip and James, Apostles and Martyrs</b> <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<br/><i>ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services</i></li> </ul> <p><b>See p. 7</b></p> |   |
| <b>Sat 2</b> | <b>Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher († 373)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, his assistant bishops, clergy and people</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglican Church of Melanesia<br/><i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i></li> </ul> <p><b>See pp 4 &amp; 8</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Tuna Day</li> </ul>          |
| <b>Sun 3</b> | <b>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <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<br/><i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i></p> <p><b>See p. 9</b></p>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Press Freedom Day</li> </ul> |
| <b>Mon 4</b> | <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<br/><i>The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program</i></li> </ul> <p><b>See p. 10</b></p>                       |   |

| <b>May</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 5</b> | <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 CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>Wed 6</b> | <p><b>John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> – <i>if not observed on 27 Dec.</i></p> <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 E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>Thu 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<br/><i>The Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk and EpiscoCare in the Diocese of Egypt</i></li> </ul> <p><b>See p. 4</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Vesak', the Day of the Full Moon</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Fri 8</b> | <p><b>Julian of Norwich, Holy Woman and Mystic († 1417)</b></p> <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) VIMROD – <i>the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i></li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War</li> </ul>                                   |
| <b>Sat 9</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>Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War</li> <li>World Migratory Bird Day</li> </ul> |



| <b>May</b>    | <b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>   | <b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>  | <b>UN Days</b>  |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Sun 10</b> | <b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</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<br/><i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>See pp 5 &amp; 12</b></p> |   |
| <b>Mon 11</b> | <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> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>See p. 5</b></p>   |   |
| <b>Tue 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> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>See p. 13</b></p>   |   |
| <b>Wed 13</b> | <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)<br/><i>TOPIK – the Towards Peace in Korea Initiative of the Anglican Church of Korea</i></li> </ul>                  |   |
| <b>Thu 14</b> | <b>Matthias, Apostle and Martyr</b><br><i>– if not observed on 24 Feb.</i> <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>Fri 15</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>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of Families</li> </ul> |

| <b>May</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 16</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>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of Living Together in Peace</li> <li>International Day of Light</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sun 17</b> | <p><b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b></p> <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>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Telecommunication and Information Society Day</li> </ul>                               |
| <b>Mon 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>Tue 19</b> | <p><b>Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury († 998)</b></p> <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)</li> </ul> <p><b>See p.6</b></p>   |   |
| <b>Wed 20</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<br/><i>The Church’s Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Bee Day</li> </ul>   |

| <b>May</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 21</b> | <b>The Ascension of our Lord</b><br>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (till Pentecost) – <i>in the Southern Hemisphere</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Diocese of Rockhampton – The Ven Tom Henderson-Brooks (Administrator), 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 Tea Day</li> <li>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</li> </ul> |
| <b>Fri 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 for Biological Diversity</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sat 23</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 to End Obstetric Fistula</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sun 24</b> | <b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</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>Mon 25</b> | <b>Bede of Jarrow, Priest and Teacher († 735)</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>Tue 26</b> | <b>Augustine of Canterbury, Missionary and Bishop († 605)</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>                |  |

| <b>May</b>    | <b>Lectionary Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer</b>  | <b>Overseas Partner + development arm – where appropriate</b>                                       | <b>UN Days</b>   |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Wed 27</b> | Week of Prayer for Reconciliation begins <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>Thu 28</b> | <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>Fri 29</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> </ul>                                  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Day of UN Peacekeepers</li> </ul> |
| <b>Sat 30</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> </ul>   |   |  |
| <b>Sun 31</b> | <b>Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia</li> </ul>                    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World No-Tobacco Day</li> </ul>                 |

### **Omissions and displacements in May this year –**

24 May: John († 1791) and Charles († 1788) Wesley, Evangelists

31 May: The Visitation of the BVM to Elizabeth

*Lord Jesus Christ*  
**Son of God**  
*have mercy on your world*

We cry out to you, O Christ, for you calm the storm, and give us peace.  
Hear us as we pray ...

For all who are affected by Covid-19,  
through bereavement or illness, isolation or unease,  
that they may find solace and comfort, health and healing:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Have mercy on your world.**

For those who guide the nations at this time,  
shaping national policies,  
that their judgements may be wise, their decisions prudent:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Have mercy on your world.**

For the World Health Organization and for medical staff,  
for epidemiologists and researchers trying to develop a vaccine,  
that through the expertise and discernment God has given them  
the sick will be restored to health, and the healthy will be protected:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Have mercy on your world.**

For the vulnerable and the anxious,  
for the critically ill and the dying,  
that they may know the comfort and peace you bring:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Have mercy on your world.**

We entrust ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to God's mercy and protection:  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
**Have mercy on your world.**