

Partners Praying Together

August 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).

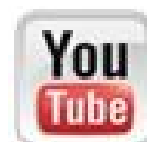
1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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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 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

- ✦ Pray for all those affected by the 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, especially those who need oxygen but who are unable to get it and those who cannot find a place in hospital when they need it; 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; for those who are struggling due to of the social restrictions brought about because of the virus.
- ✦ Give thanks for all the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff who are tending to the sick; for the police as they maintain social order; for the epidemiologists and other scientists who have brought us effective vaccines and strive to bring us more; 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 continued anxiety.

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✦ Pray for the new bishop of the New Guinea Islands diocese, the Rt Rev Reg Makele, as he assumes office and conducts his first diocesan council meeting in August.
- ✦ Pray for Anglicare-PNG, the Church Partnerships Project and Anglican Health services as they plan and prepare with ABM, DFAT and the Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations consortium to address the PNG Covid-19 health situation, especially as they focus on awareness and advocacy around the importance and use of Covid-19 vaccines and roll out the vaccines in the communities in urban, peri-urban and remote rural areas.
- ✦ Pray for Port Moresby Diocese as it prepares to elect a new bishop.
- ✦ Give thanks for ACPNG's church partners overseas for their continued prayers and great support in terms of resources for Church mission and combating Covid-19 health issues in PNG.

Prayer

O Lord, our fortress and pillar of strength, send your Holy Spirit to continue to protect, guide and rule our hearts and our lives and to give us blessings each moment of the days and nights in ACPNG during this challenging time as the Covid 19 health situation affects the livelihood of people.

We ask you, Lord, to give us your knowledge, wisdom and understanding with peace of mind to know more about the Covid 19 virus and the importance of using vaccines. Give us courage to take the vaccines for the protection for ourselves and our neighbours so that we may have good healthy lives in our communities.

We give thanks for all those who bring commitment and resources to address the Covid 19 health situation in PNG.

Lord, pour down your divine power of healing grace to those who have been affected by the coronavirus.

Help us to fight against the virus and bring it under control and eradicate the Covid 19 variants.

Restore us back to good health and normalcy in our lives once again so we may live in peace and harmony. Amen.

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✦ Pray that our lifestyle should agree with the word of God.
- ✦ Pray for salvation of human souls and God's hand for South Sudan to be delivered from tribalism, war and corruption.
- ✦ Pray for the whole world to know God's wonderful plan of salvation.
- ✦ Thank God who gave the church supreme authority to build his kingdom.
- ✦ Continue to thank God for the low rate of infection in the country.
- ✦ We thank God for the successful election of the second bishop of Ezo Diocese in Western Equatoria Internal Province

香港聖公會

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

- ✦ Pray for the revival of the Church and the spirituality of the faithful in the Pentecost season.
- ✦ Pray for the preventive measures against COVID and the progress of vaccination in the community.
- ✦ Pray for the recovery of the economy, the improvement of unemployment rate, especially in the sectors which have been badly affected amid the epidemic.
- ✦ Pray for the youth ministry and the evangelic outreach program for children in summertime.

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ Give thanks for the continuing Covid vaccination programme in Japan and pray that the current shortage of doses nationwide might be resolved

- ✦ Please pray for the Paralympic Games and all who are participating; that these events might bring some light and joy to the international community in the midst of a difficult time
- ✦ Give thanks for the NSKK's recent workshops on preventing and combating harassment within the church, and pray that Safe Church training and guidelines might be put in place soon
- ✦ As the Japanese church remember the youth of the province on Sunday 1 August, please pray for all the young of the NSKK, that they might use their energy and enthusiasm to revitalize the church as it looks to the future
- ✦ As the Japanese rainy season ends and summer begins, give thanks for all who work in the emergency services who have been much in demand during recent times of heavy rain throughout the country. Please pray for all those who have lost homes, business or loved ones.
- ✦ Please remember and pray for all those affected by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima (6 August) and Nagasaki (9 August), and ask for strength for those who still live with the legacy of those weapons. Please pray also for the NSKK to be used as a vessel of peace as it seeks to protect the integrity of God's creation through promotion of a world without nuclear power. Please also remember the end of the war on 15 August and join us as we pray for a lasting peace in our world.

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



Postage stamp from Ireland featuring John Henry Cardinal Newman. Feast day 11 August.

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

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Aug	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Sun 1	Pentecost II [Ordinary Sunday 18] <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Breastfeeding Week begins
Mon 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Melanesia <i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i> 	
Tue 3	Stephen, deacon and first martyr – if not observed on 26 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i> See p. 4	
Wed 4	John Baptist Vianney, parish priest of Ars, France († 1895) <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> 	

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Thu 5	Oswald, king and martyr († 642) <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> 	
Fri 6	The Transfiguration of our Lord <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> 	
Sat 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Grieves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the 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> 	
Sun 8	Pentecost II [Ordinary Sunday 19] <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> 	
Mon 9	Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union († 1921) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

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Tue 10	<p>Laurence, deacon and martyr at Rome († 258)</p> <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> 	
Wed 11	<p>Clare of Assisi, religious († 1252) John Henry Newman, cardinal and theologian († 1890)</p> <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) <i>See p. 5</i> 	
Thu 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) <i>See p. 5</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Youth Day
Fri 13	<p>Jeremy Taylor, bishop and spiritual writer († 1667)</p> <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 	

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Sat 14	<p>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)</p> <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 	
Sun 15	<p>Mary, Mother of our Lord or Pentecost 12 [Ordinary Sunday 20]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Mon 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of North India 	

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Tue 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 	
Wed 18	<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 	
Thu 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishops Jeremy James TSSF, Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	The Church of the Province of South-East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore, with missionary congregations in Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and some parts of Indo-China)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Humanitarian Day
Fri 20	<p>Bernard of Clairvaux, abbot and teacher († 1153)</p> <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. 5</p>	
Sat 21	<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"> International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

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Sun 22	Pentecost 13 [Ordinary Sunday 21] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nungalinya College, Darwin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
Tue 24	Bartholomew, apostle and martyr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns 	
Wed 25	<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"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) 	
Thu 26	Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) 	
Fri 27	Monica, mother of Augustine († 387) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	

Aug	Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer	ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate	UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each
Sat 28	Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher († 430) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy 	
Sun 29	Pentecost 14 [Ordinary Sunday 22] <i>Day of Prayer for Refugees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day against Nuclear Tests
Mon 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
Tue 31	Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary († 651) John Bunyan, preacher and spiritual writer († 1688) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mothers' Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day for People of African Descent

Omissions and displacements in August this year –

1: Holy men and women of the Old Testament. 8: Dominic, priest and friar († 1221). 29: Beheading of John the Baptist

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 6,244,285 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (2,295,095), Morocco (557,632), Tunisia (548,753), Egypt (283,703) and Ethiopia (277,696).

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 75,276,121 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (34,112,247), Brazil (19,376,574), Argentina (4,769,142), Colombia (4,655,921) and Mexico (2,664,444).

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 52 579 160 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (31,144,229), Iran (3,523,263), Indonesia (2,877,476), Philippines (1,507,755) and Iraq (1,491,712).

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 56 960 030 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Russia (5,982,766), France (5,867,730), Turkey (5,529,719), the United Kingdom (5,433,939) and Italy (4,287,458).

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

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, OCEANIA, where there have been 98,407 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (31,898), French Polynesia (19,085), Fiji (18,228), Papua New Guinea (17,464) and Guam (8,478).

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 22 July 2021.*