



December 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 s 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?

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, though 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

- Lord, you have called us to know, love and serve you; you have called us to proclaim you: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, make us worthy of our calling, that were may live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.
- Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 worldwide; for the families and friends of those who have died; for the sick, especially those who need oxygen but are unable to get it and those who cannot find a hospital when they need it; for children who are scared of dying now that the Delta strain is affecting children; for those unable to work from home; whose businesses have been affected; for those whose income is reduced or who have been laid off; for those more susceptible to Covid; for all who are unable to meet for worship in their usual place. For those in Afghanistan now under Taliban rule; for the men now forced to grow their hair and beards; for the girls who now cannot access education beyond Grade 6; for the women now required to wear burkhas, and who are not allowed to leave home without a male escort.
- Give thanks for doctors, nurses, and other medical and domestic staff tending the sick; for police as they maintain social order; for scientists who have brought effective Covid vaccines and strive to keep pace with emerging strains, particularly Delta; for those who obey government guidelines to help all at this time; for all who are vaccinated allowing more freedoms to be given for social interaction; for the opening of borders and travel predicted shortly; for all churches who have found creative ways to engage in worship online or outside; for all who minister in Christ's name in this season of continued anxiety.
- * We praise and thank you, Father, for Christ's saving death, and the promise of everlasting life.

- Compiled by Margaret Carter, Vic, 7.10.2021



The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- We pray for our Government as it implements a new 'traffic light' approach to containing the pandemic and for people in Auckland who remain in a state of partial lockdown. We give thanks for the way the vast majority of people continue to accept the need for restrictions and are doing the right thing.
- We give thanks for everyone supporting the 'Get one Give one' Covid campaign being pushed out by Anglican Missions which aims for greater equality in the availability of and access to vaccines in low-income countries. Over \$140,000 has been raised so far.
- We give thanks for such a positive outcome from the New Zealand Government to the Big Hearts campaign that the Anglican Diocese of Wellington helped spearhead. One outcome has been a greater commitment to overseas aid and climate change financing.
- ❖ We pray for the people of Afghanistan, for refugees and aid agencies and we give thanks for the role Archbishop Philip Richardson had in a recent on-line forum that included a number of New Zealand-based Afghani leaders and NGO leaders. Thank you for the way that the Anglican Church is stretching out and taking such a prominent role in this and other global issues.
- We pray for the Diocese of Polynesia as it continues to support and bring hope to congregations and communities and for the Government of Fiji as it prepares to lift travel restrictions for visitors.



The Anglican Church of Kenya

- ♣ Pray for protection against all the Covid 19 variants that are already threatening the world.
- ♣ Pray for the church in Kenya to remain the salt and the light of her nation as we move to the year of the general election.
- ♣ Pray for the families facing gender-based violence, which threatens the family relationship.
- Pray for those whose lives have been affected by the pandemic (loss of employment and those experiencing pay cuts) that another door may open so that they receive restoration.
- ♣ Pray for the Archbishop of Kenya, the Most Rev Jackson Ole Sapit, that God may protect him and grant him wisdom as he leads the Anglican Church of Kenya.
- Pray for the north-eastern part of Kenya: drought that has hard hit the region causing people to lose their livestock.
- ♣ Pray for the schools in Kenya that have recently been hit by violence and rebellion, leading to the burning down of schools.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

- ♣ Giving thanks the Vanuatu and Solomon Islands are still Covid 19 free.
- ♣ Pray for an end to violence and destruction in Honiara and for those who lost their businesses and livelihoods from the riots.
- ♣ Pray for peaceful resolution to disagreements amongst governments and people leading to the violence
- ♣ Pray for newly-elected diocesan and assistant bishops as they await their consecration early next year.

The Church of the Province of South-East Asia

- We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and mercy, in protecting and providing for His Church in the Province of South East (PSEA). In the midst of the pandemic together with challenges in the region, the Lord has provided resources, creativity and online innovation for the work of evangelism and discipleship.
- Pray for the work of the Church in Malaysia and Singapore, and the mission of the Province of South East Asia in Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Nepal, that the Kingdom of God will be preached without fear nor favour in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask for God's mercy on all who suffer due to the threat of Covid 19, affecting tourism industry which contributes significantly to the GDP of the nations in our region, causing millions losing their livelihood at the brink of starvation.
- Pray for equitable distribution of vaccines, food, financial resources in the nations, and that we might walk in the blessings of God's timeless principle in His words, to love our neighbour as ourselves.
- Pray for the continuous equipping and effective training of clergy and laity through local theological institutions and ministry schools, that greater mobilisation of the laity for effective witnessing for Christ and ministries to the hurting and the marginalized would be evident in our society.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- Pray for the people of the Lebanon, ravaged by economic meltdown and political selfishness as well as the after-effects of the huge port explosion a year ago
- ♣ Pray for each of the many governments in this multi-nation Province to manage the pandemic responsibly and consistently

- # Give thanks for regular worship faithfully maintained almost everywhere despite restriction and challenge
- ♣ Pray for justice in Israel/Palestine and Iraq in particular
- Pray for Archbishop Michael, the Primate, and for Archbishop Hosam of the Diocese of Jerusalem, and all their people, together with the Diocese of Iran in exceptionally hard times

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ★ We thank God for the successful conduct of the eleventh general synod of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.
- ♣ Pray against land grabbing and disputes over land that have always caused violence in many parts of South Sudan.
- ♣ Pray against the misuse of children as child soldiers, child labour or early marriages.
- ♣ Pray for the successful implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and an urgent graduation of the joint forces.
- ♣ Pray for the government suggestion to buy and burn illegal arms and ammunition from civilians to bring to an end the vicious cycle of communal violence in the country.

香港聖公會

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

- ♣ Pray for the long-term development of Hong Kong and Macau, for the proper use of limited land areas to provide sufficient housing for the younger generation, the sustainable growth of the local economy, and the conservation of resources and environment.
- Give thanks for the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Hong Kong Island which was held on 6-7 November. The theme of the Synod was "Living out God's Mission in Challenging Times".
- ♣ Pray for the Advent Program and the publication of a newly written book From Fragmentation to Wholeness in the Realm of Life for spirituality.
- ♣ Pray for the people being affected by and suffering from the COVID pandemic.

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai The Anglican Communion in Japan

- Give thanks for the continuing vaccination programme throughout Japan and its increased uptake by the general population; and also pray for the government as they begin planning for, and distributing booster shots.
- ♣ Please pray for the meeting this month of diocesan finance directors as they look to deal with financial shortfalls and associated difficulties brought on by the pandemic.
- # Give thanks for the work of the Human Rights' Committee of the NSKK and pray for them as they meet this month; ask God to give them inspiration and wisdom.
- ♣ Please pray for all who are work outside or are homeless at this time of year when the weather turns cold.
- ♣ Give thanks for the recent COP26 meeting in Scotland, and all that came out of that meeting; and pray that they might not be empty promises, but rather targets to be worked towards and that the Japanese government might take a lead in this.
- Please pray that this season of Advent may give a chance in busy lives for people to think about the bigger issues of what is important, and what they can do to help care for God's world and each other.

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A postage stamp from France featuring St Nicholas of Myra. Feast day 6 December.

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Nov	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
Wed I	The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee	The Anglican Church of Kenya ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services See p. 5	• World Aids Day
Thu 2	Frances Perry, founder of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne († 1892) The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the clergy and people	The Anglican Church of Melanesia The ACOM Board of Mission See p. 5	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Fri 3	Francis Xavier, priest and missionary († 1552) • The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people	The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Sat 4	Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, man of prayer († 1637) • The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people	The Church of the Province of Central Africa The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program	International Day of Banks

Nov	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 5	 Advent 2 The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. 	The Church of the Province of Myanmar CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks	 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development World Soil Day
Mon 6	Nicholas of Myra, bishop and philanthropist († ca. 342) The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people	The Episcopal Church in the Philippines E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP	
Tue 7	 Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher († 397) The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the clergy and people 	The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East The Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk See p. 6	International Civil Aviation Day
Wed 8	 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people 	The Philippine Independent Church – (Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI)	

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Thu 9	The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, the clergy and people	The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China	 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime International Anti- Corruption Day
Fri 10	Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces	The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia Anglican Missions Board, AMB See p. 4	• Human Rights Day
Sat	The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people	• The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui 香港聖公會) See p. 7	• International Mountain Day
Sun 12	• The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people	• The Anglican Church of Japan (Nippon Sei Ko Kai 日本聖公会) See p. 8	 International Day of Neutrality International Universal Health Coverage Day

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Mon 13	 Lucy, martyr and virgin († 304) Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people 	The Anglican Church of Korea	
Tue 14	 John of the Cross, mystic and teacher († 1591) Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	The Church of Bangladesh	
Wed 15	• The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people	The Church of Ceylon	
Thu 16	The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people	The Church of North India	
Fri 17	The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people	The Church of Pakistan	

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Sat 18	The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people	The Church of South India	International Migrants DayArabic Language Day
Sun 19	• 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) See p. 6	
Mon 20	The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people	• The Episcopal Church of South Sudan The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA See p. 7	International Human Solidarity Day
Tue 21	 Thomas, apostle and martyr [May be observed on 3 July 2022] The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	The Episcopal Church of Sudan	

Nov	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
Wed 22	The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people	NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council	
Thu 23	The Diocese of Tasmania –Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, clergy and people	Nungalinya College, Darwin	
Fri 24	• The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people	• Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns	
Sat 25	 The Birth of our Lord The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people 	Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)	
Sun 26	 Christmas I or Stephen, deacon and martyr [May be observed on 3 August 2022] The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. 	The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)	

Nov	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
Mon 27	 John, apostle and evangelist [May be observed on 6 May 2022] The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people 	USPG (UK and Ireland)	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness
Tue 28	 Holy Innocents [May be observed on 17 February 2022] Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers 	Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy	
Wed 29	 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr († 1170) Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 	Anglican Discipleship – Jesus- Shaped Life	
Thu 30	Josephine Butler, social reformer († 1905) • Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia	CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa	
Fri 31	John Wyclif, teacher and reformer († 1384) Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia	The Mothers' Union	

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 8,585,946 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (2,929,862), Morocco (948,976), Tunisia (716,298), Ethiopia (370,200) and Libya (368,392).

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 96,392,793 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (47,890,833), Brazil (22,019,870), Argentina (5,315,989), Colombia (5,050,255) and Mexico (3,864,278).

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 71,010,689 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (34,518,901), Iran (6,070,438), Indonesia (4,253,412), the Philippines (2,826,410) and Malaysia (2,586,601).

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 81,540,105 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United Kingdom (9,845,492), Russia (9,366,839), Turkey (8,544,060), France (7,393,125) and Germany (5,392,533).

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 374,238 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (199,651), Fiji (52,453), French Polynesia (45,609), Papua New Guinea (34,442) and Guam (19,069).

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 29 November 2021.