

Partners Praying Together

January 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?

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

- ✚ Lord Jesus, born in a stable, sought by Herod, taken as a refugee, hear the cry of all who are refugees or homeless. Fill us with love and care for them, and may we show that love in serving those in need. It is in serving them that we serve You, Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- ✚ Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 worldwide; for the continuing fine-tuning of vaccines to allow for the best-possible protection against new strains of the virus such as omicron; for the more affluent countries to supply more vaccines to developing nations for a world completely vaccinated; for all primary-school children affected by Covid outbreaks. Pray for the people of Afghanistan for justice and peace, not repression; also for the people of Israel/Palestine and Iraq; pray for the people of the Solomon Islands now having to rebuild physically and politically after violent riots rocked the nation, remembering especially the impact this may have on their economy once tourism recommences. Pray that help will be given swiftly to all who suffered from the floods in Queensland and New South Wales, which will affect them for years. Pray for the 2022 elections in Kenya that the country will remain united and peaceful both before and after the elections and that political leaders elected will mobilise electorates based on their development and leadership capacity rather than their tribal loyalties which could cause tensions between tribes. Pray for South-East Asia and the Pacific where Covid has decimated tourism causing millions to lose their businesses or livelihoods, leading them to the brink of starvation.
- ✚ Give thanks for all doctors, nurses and other medical and caregiving staff tending the sick; for scientists who have brought effective Covid-19 vaccines and strive to keep pace

with emerging strains; for all Australians who are vaccinated allowing more freedom for social interaction; for long distance travel and the opening of state borders; for those who have been in strict general lockdown the freedom to visit again; for the sheer joy of being able to meet face to face to worship God and come once again to the Lord's Table and to marvel at God's goodness to us through trying times. For gift of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus. God is amazingly good to us!

- ✠ We praise and thank You, Father, for Jesus' birth to rescue us and bridge the gap that separated us from You and the promise of eternal with You.

– Compiled by Margaret Carter, Vic, 6.12.2021

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia

- ✠ We pray for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand as they head off to be with family and friends over Christmas. We pray especially for those who may be alone at this time and for churches and agencies everywhere which show and share love and hospitality.
- ✠ We give thanks for the people of Auckland who have only recently come out of almost 4 months lockdown. Thank you for the way most people adhered to the rules in order to slow the spread of Covid.
- ✠ We pray for Karen Chute, the recently appointed Project Manager in the Diocese of Polynesia who will lead the Diocesan response to any cyclones this season.
- ✠ We thank you for the generosity of so many people who have supported the 'Get one. Give one.' campaign that is providing Covid vaccinations to people in low-income countries who would otherwise miss out. More than \$160,000 has been raised.
- ✠ We pray for opportunities to share the light and life of Jesus with those who may not yet know him this Christmas time.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✦ We give thanks for the blessing of hope, peace, love and joy in the hearts of people as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in Australia so that they are able to travel and be united once more with their loved ones, family members, friends and neighbours especially during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. Lord give us the wisdom to know the deeper meaning of Jesus Christ's birth this Christmas and Epiphany.
- ✦ We give thanks to our Lord for the blessings of good weather patterns that bring rain clouds and cooler breeze to stop potential bush fires from occurring and give your people the chance to build their homes and lives again with happiness and joy. Lord, you are the giver and sustainer of good life.
- ✦ We pray for those people who are lonely at this time for any reason, O Lord. May you strengthen them in their faith and let them feel your presence so that they may come to know your divine power and love, throw off the feeling of loneliness in their lives and rejoice.
- ✦ We pray for those who are working through the holiday period so that vital services are provided to meet the needs of all people to enjoy and live their new normal lives. Lord give them strength to do their work in serving others this holiday period.
- ✦ We pray for priests, pastors and ministers who are put in charge as good shepherds to lead the Epiphany services to preach the message of Christ's birth and manifestation to the Gentiles. May they meaningfully touch the minds of those who hear them so that those hearers are enabled to live Jesus-shaped lives as disciples.
- ✦ Continue to pray that the Nativity and Epiphany of our Lord will touch the lives of people with peace and joy in their hearts. To God be the glory - he gave his only begotten son to be the Saviour and Redeemer of humanity.
- ✦ Pray for effective leadership in the Governance of ACPNG in 2022.
- ✦ Pray for all bishops and priests in their various Church work in the five dioceses.
- ✦ Pray for ACPNG and its Church partners overseas for greater partnership, relationships and work in God's mission.
- ✦ Pray for Church institutions throughout ACPNG for good governance, performance and productivity.
- ✦ Pray for Church ministries to become more effective in their teaching, learning and proclaiming the Word through Bible reading, reflection and sharing with others.
- ✦ Pray for the Anglican Education Division - National Education Secretary, Percy Kaniniba and Diocesan Education Secretaries.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✚ Pray in thanksgiving for the adaptability and resilience of so many in the churches of our complicated region.
- ✚ Pray for an improvement in relations between Iran and the Western powers and a better future for all Christians in Iran.
- ✚ Pray for the place of Christians to be actively respected in the Holy Land and especially in the city of Jerusalem.
- ✚ Pray for all to be enabled to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and for an end to absurd conspiracy theories and their promoters.
- ✚ Pray for Christians, Muslims, Jews, Druze, Yezidis, and followers of other religions and of none to have a sense of the common good of humanity and to act on it in these hard times.

日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai **The Anglican Communion in Japan**

- ✚ Give thanks for the youth movements of the church, and pray for the upcoming meeting of diocesan youth representatives
- ✚ Please pray for the NSKK's Justice and Peace Committee as they meet, and for encouragement to stand up for what is right, especially in a world where that is not always the easy option
- ✚ Give thanks for the unstinting work of the medical community - doctors, nurses and technicians - who devote their time to caring for others, and especially at the end of another year of pandemic, pray for strength to overcome tiredness and stress as they seek to bring healing
- ✚ Please pray for the work of the NSKK and other Christian groups in Japan as they minister to those in prison; that they may bring the light of Christ into dark places
- ✚ Give thanks for all the opportunities presented by this New Year and pray that Japan may take seriously its role as a developed nation to help bring growth throughout the world
- ✚ Please pray for all those who are still affected by Covid-19 and those who will start this new year alone or without their loved ones

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



A postage stamp from Serbia featuring St Sava and the church built under his patronage which sits on the Vračar plateau in Belgrade. Feast day 14 January.

For details about the building and its history, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Saint_Sava.

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

Your used and mint postage stamps are valuable to ABM because we can use them to help fund mission.

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New South Wales 1230,
Australia

Jan	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 1	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus <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> 	
Sun 2	Christmas 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> 	
Mon 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i> <i>See p. 5</i> 	
Tue 4	<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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Braille Day

Jan	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 5	<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> 	
Thu 6	<p>The Epiphany of our Lord</p> <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> 	
Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, 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> <p>See p. 6</p>	
Sat 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippine Independent Church – (<i>Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI</i>) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i>) 	

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Sun 9	The Baptism of our Lord (Epiphany I) <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 	
Mon 10	William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr († 1645) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia <i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i> <p><i>See p. 4</i></p>	
Tue 11	<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) 	
Wed 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Japan (<i>Nippon Sei Ko Kai</i> 日本聖公会) <p><i>See p. 6</i></p>	
Thu 13	Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and teacher († 367) <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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Fri 14	<p>Sava, first Archbishop of the Serbian Church († 1235)</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 	
Sat 15	<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 	
Sun 16	<p>Epiphany 2</p> <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 	
Mon 17	<p>Antony of Egypt, abbot († 356)</p> <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 	
Tue 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 	

Jan	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 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)	
Thu 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i> 	
Fri 21	<p>Agnes, martyr at Rome, virgin († 304)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan 	
Sat 22	<p>Vincent, deacon and martyr († 304)</p> <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 	

Jan	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 23	Epiphany 3 <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"> Nungalinga College, Darwin 	
Mon 24	The companions of St Paul, including Timothy, Titus and Silas <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Education
Tue 25	The Conversion of St Paul <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) 	
Wed 26	Australia Day <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) 	
Thu 27	John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, teacher († 407) <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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Jan	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
Fri 28	Thomas Aquinas, theologian († 1274) <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 	
Sat 29	<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 	
Sun 30	Epiphany 4 <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 	
Mon 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 8,982,687 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (3,167,497), Morocco (951,482), Tunisia (719,662), Libya (378,105) and Ethiopia (373,115).

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 98,970,003 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (49,921,405), Brazil (22,167,781), Argentina (5,361,967), Colombia (5,095,821) and Mexico (3,918,987).

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 72,229,915 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (34,697,860), Iran (6,154,813), Indonesia (4,259,143), the Philippines (2,836,803) and Malaysia (2,691,639).

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 89,731,588 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United Kingdom (10,819,515), Russia (10,046,454), Turkey (9,022,223), France (8,220,099) and Germany (6,542,964).

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 412,379 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (230,753), Fiji (52,593), French Polynesia (46,334), Papua New Guinea (35,956) and Guam (19,325).

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 16 December 2021.*